■ Across / A17

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FIL-AM/ A18

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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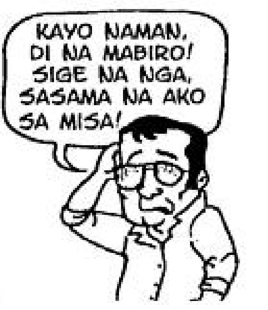
DA KING/ A9


KAYO NAMAN, DI NA MABIRO! SIGE NA NGA, SASAMA NA AKO SA MISA!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, May 6, 2004 ★★ 48 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 148 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Comelec credible but not Abalos

60% of voters trust poll body, says SWS

By Martin P. Marfil

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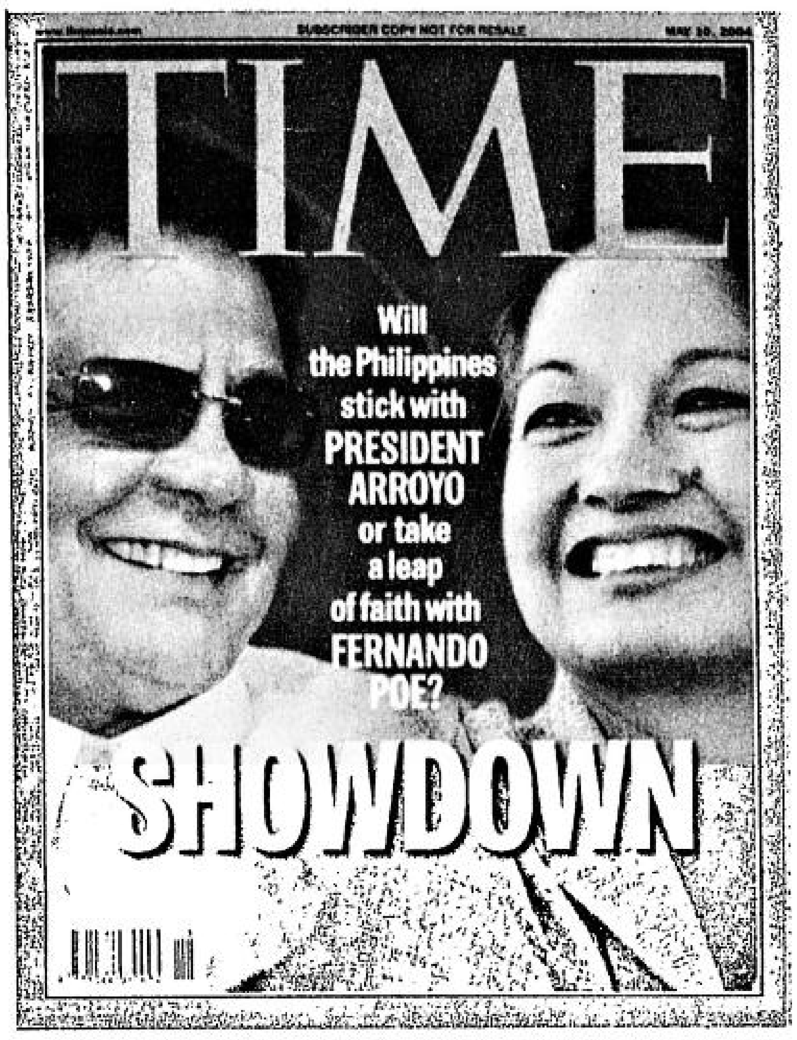
The February survey came a few weeks after the Supreme Court nullified the P1.3-billion automated counting machines deal between the Comelec and Mega Pacific Inc.

The high court also ordered the government to recover the money paid to the consortium. The order has not been carried out.

Asked to comment on the survey results, Abalos expressed satisfaction, saying he was more concerned about the integrity of the institution than survey results about him.

COMELEC/ A18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MAY 10, 2004
TIME
Will the Philippines stick with PRESIDENT ARROYO or take a leap of faith with FERNANDO POE?
SHOWDOWN

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4 dead, 6 wounded in Cavite shoot-out

PHOTO COURTESY OF PEOPLE'S JOURNAL

THE CONSEQUENCE of two rivals fiercely contesting the mayoralty seat in Trece Martires City, Cavite. The toll: 4 dead, 6 wounded.

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
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4 DEAD/ A8

Time: Filipinos still waiting for real thing

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

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THE CHARM OFFENSIVE REVISITED ELEKSYON 2004

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By Elvira Mata
Desk Editor

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Yes, sorties.

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He has lost at least 10 pounds—because he could manage only three or four hours of sleep a day—and looks younger. He sports a healthy tan and has dyed his hair, his wife Sister Dory's idea.

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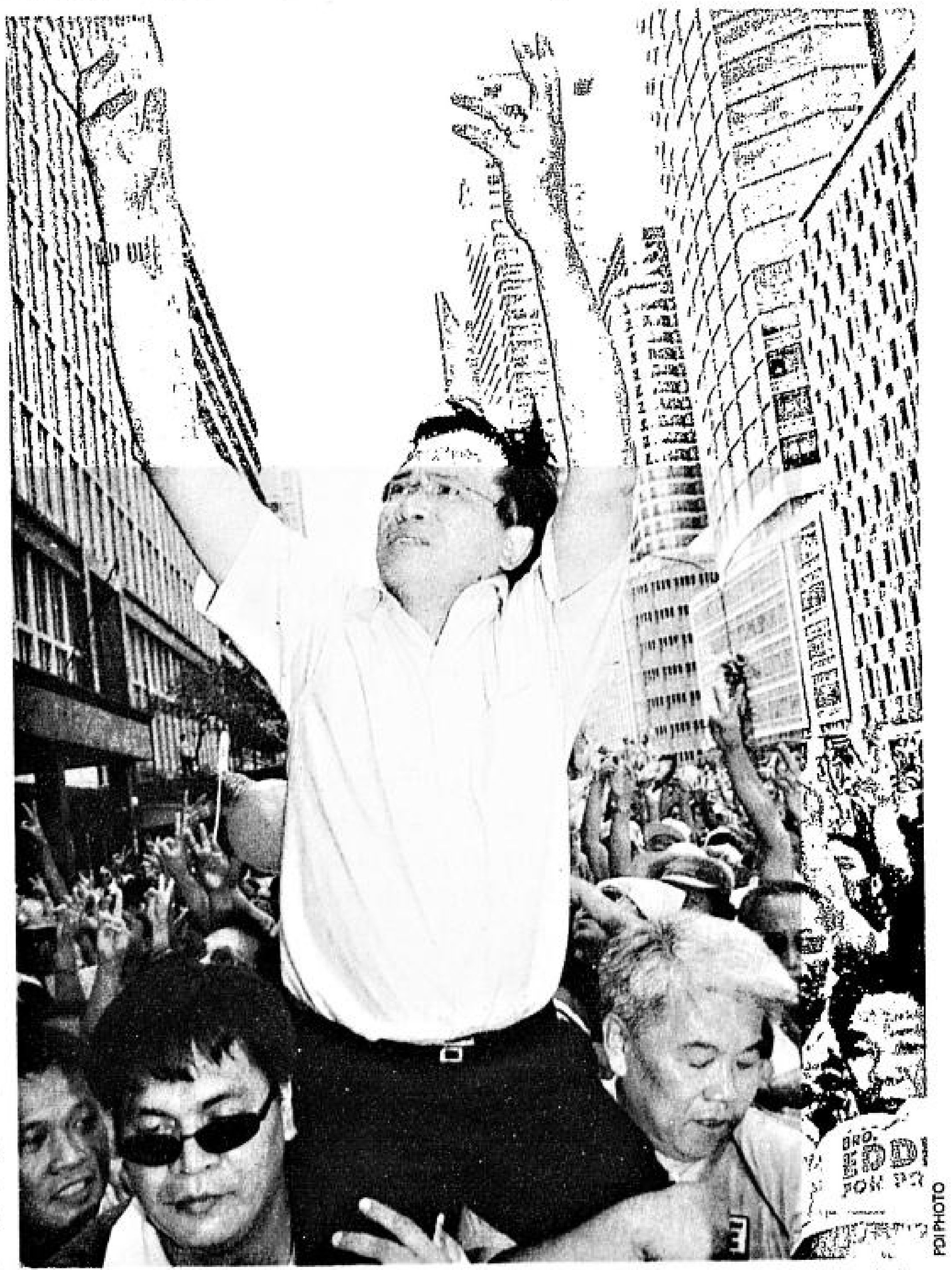
BRO. EDDIE/ A8



PDI PHOTO

HOLY indignation: Traffic stands still as Bro. Eddie Villanueva is carried on a tsunami of yellow all the way from Ayala Avenue to Paseo de Roxas beside the Ninoy Aquino monument during his Makati rally.

Madrid scenario feared

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MADRID/ A18

Ateneo law school tops world debate

THE ATENEO de Manila University Law School (ALS) team won the world championship in the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition in Washington, D.C. last month.

ALS Dean Cesar L. Villanueva said yesterday that the ALS team, which represented the Philippines after beating the UP College of Law in the regional finals, defeated the National University of

ATENEO/ A9

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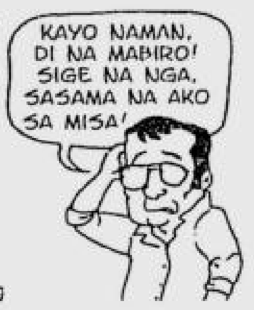

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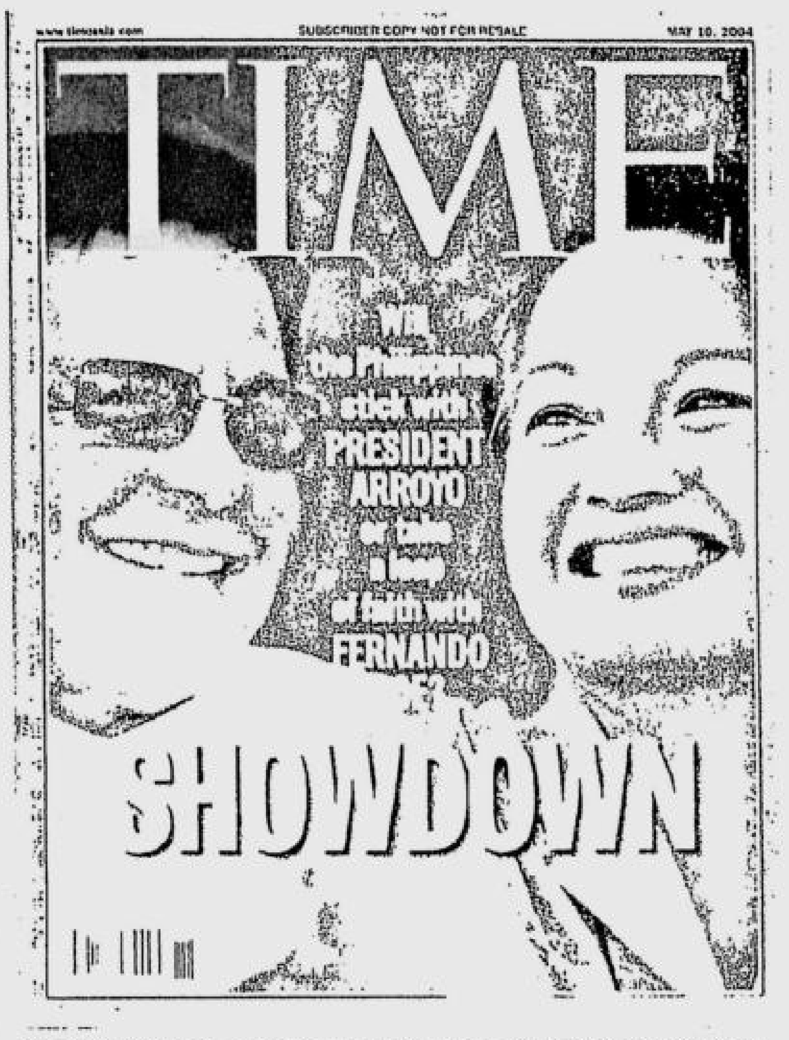

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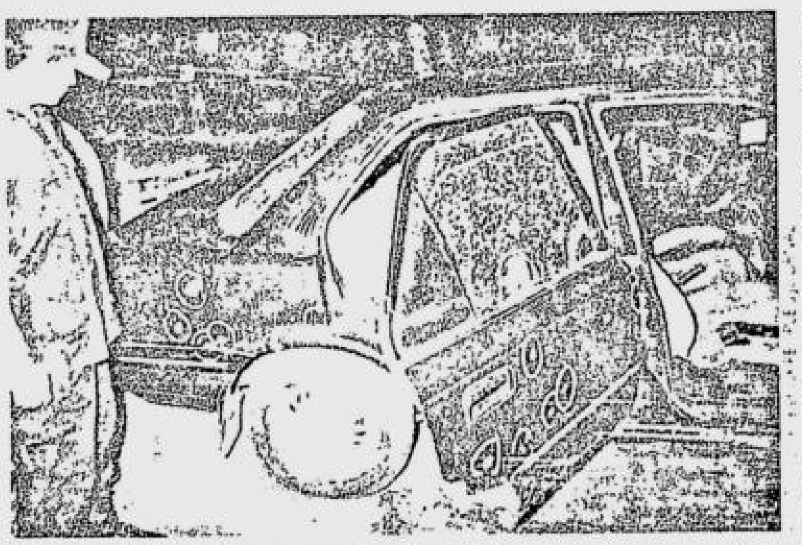

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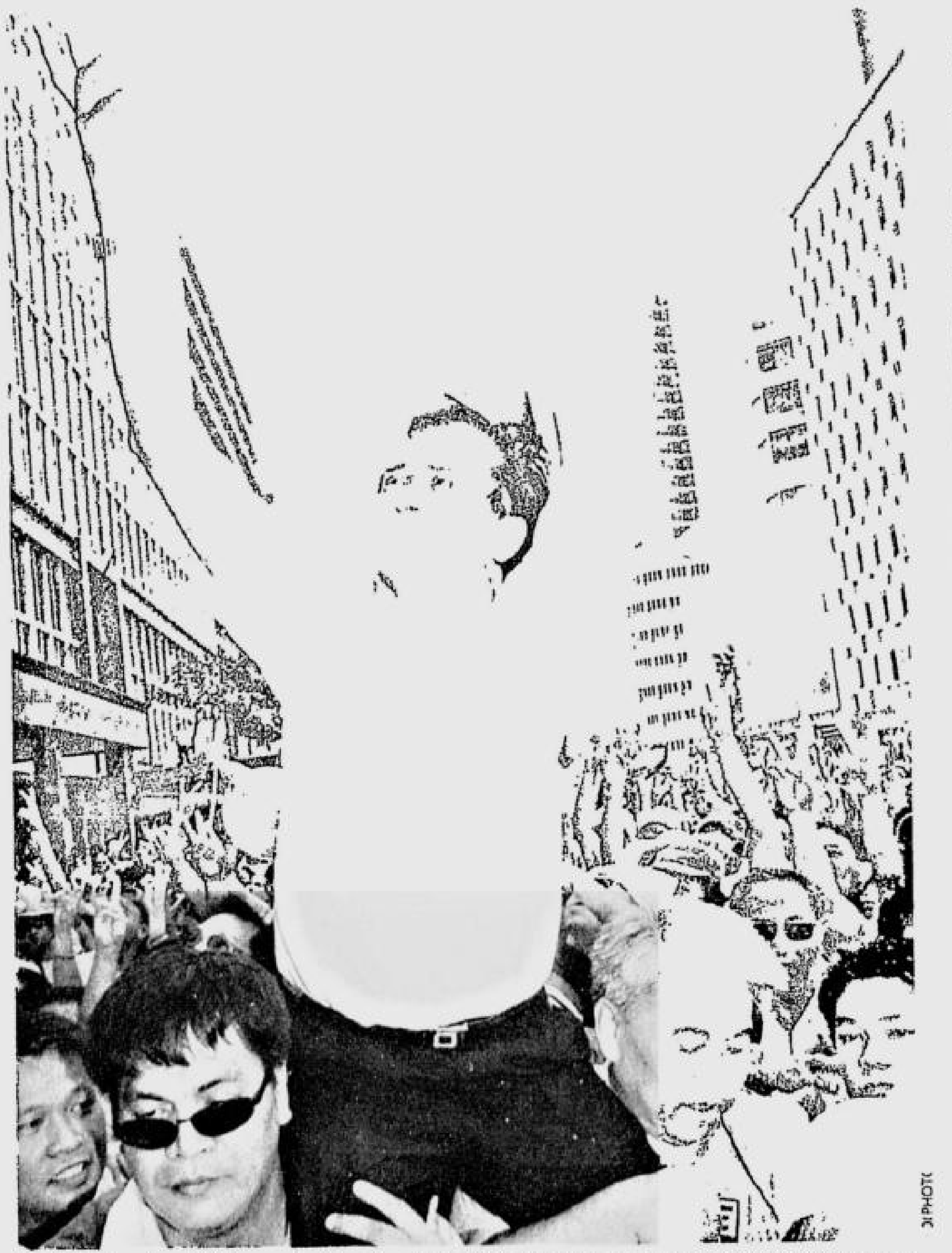

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MADRID A1

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ALS Dean Cesar L. Vill[illegible] said yesterday that the ALS te[illegible] which represented the Phi[illegible]pines after beating the UP [illegible] of Law in the regional fin[illegible] feated the National Unive[illegible]

ATENEO

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/04/28/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

GMA pads lead in new survey

By Alcuin Papa

WITH four days to go before election day, President Macapagal-Arroyo has stretched her lead over her closest rival action star Fernando Poe Jr. in the latest Pulse Asia survey.

The poll by the independent research firm predicted Ms Macapagal would win 37 percent of the vote compared to 31 percent for Poe.

It gave breakaway opposition candidate and former police chief Panfilo Lacson 11 percent, former senator Raul Roco seven percent, and evangelist Eddie Villanueva five percent.

Conducted from April 26 to 29, the survey polled 1,800 respondents and had a margin of error of 2.4 percent. It said around eight percent of voters were undecided or had no preference.

The poll showed a significant improvement for the President over the last Pulse Asia survey around a month earlier which gave Macapagal 34 percent and Poe 31 percent.

The number of residents in the National Capital Region who chose Ms Macapagal dropped from 28 percent in the last survey period to 26 percent in the latest survey. However, support for her increased in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao where she garnered 27 percent, 58 percent and 46 percent respectively. The previous survey period showed she tallied 23 percent, 56 percent and 38 percent in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao respectively.

Among the economic classes, support for the President decreased in the A, B and C classes from 37 percent in the previous survey period to 33 in the latest survey.

But she also managed to increase her support in the D and E classes, tallying 39 percent and 35 percent respectively, up from the previous survey where she garnered 34 percent among the D, and 32 percent in the E classes.

In the vice presidential race, the numbers for front runner Sen. Noli de Castro decreased slightly from 49 percent in the previous survey to 46 percent. His nearest rival, Sen. Loren Legarda, garnered 37 percent, up from 35 percent in the previous survey.

Pulse Asia also said the voters they polled had firmed up their choices for president and vice president. Sixty-nine percent said they are unlikely to change their choice of presidential candidates until May 10, while 70 percent said the same for the vice-presidential vote.

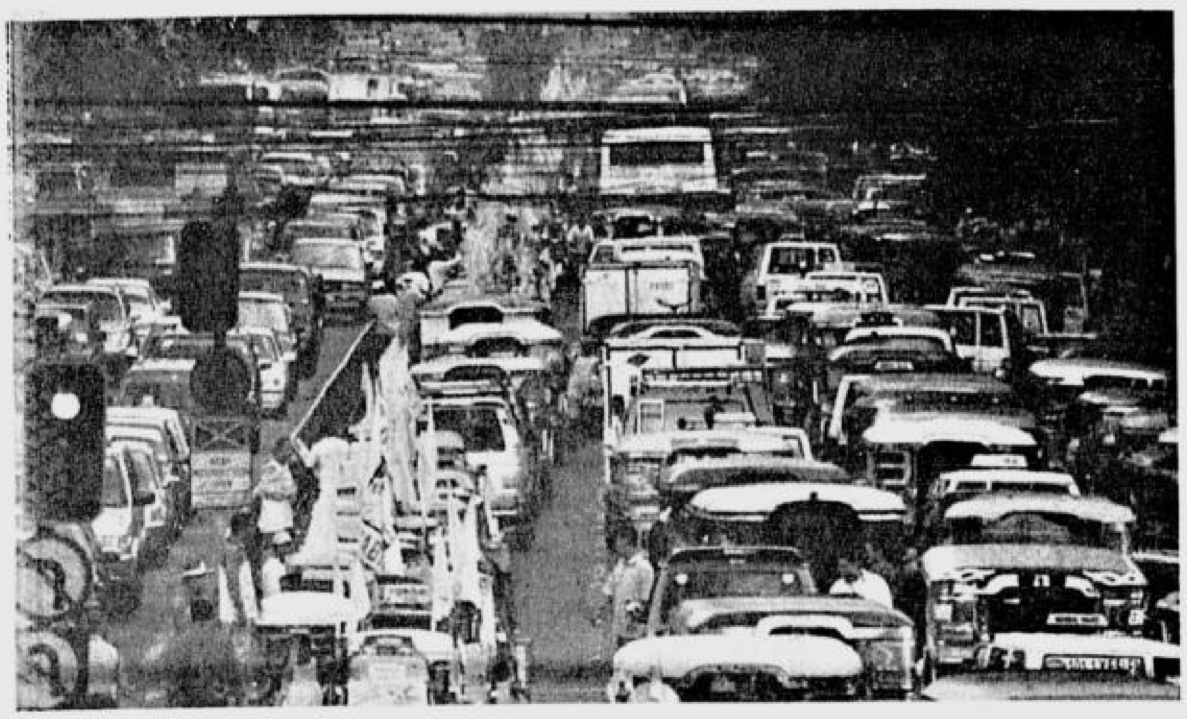
The senatorial race is seen as a case of equal numbers between the administration's K-4 coalition and the opposition's Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP).

Leading the senatorial race is Mar Roxas (K-4) with 48.9 percent, followed by Ramon "Bong" Revilla (K-4), 43.6; Aquilino Pimentel (KNP), 38.1; Alfredo Lim (KNP), 36.3; Jamby Madrigal (KNP), 36; Miriam Defensor-Santiago (K-4), 35.3, Juan Ponce Enrile (KNP), 33.9; Richard Gordon (K-4), 33.7; Jinggoy Estrada (KNP), 32.9; Lito Lapid (K-4), 31.3; Rodolfo Biazon (K-4), 30.7; and Ernesto Maceda (KNP), 30.2.

Candidates knocking on the door of the so-called Magic 12 are John Osmeña (K4) with 29.8 percent and Robert Barbers (K-4) with 29.5.

The latest survey also noted the low awareness level of party-list voters. Only less than half of the voters, or 44 percent, were aware while 56 percent were unaware of the party-list system.

Among the party list groups, Bayan Muna garnered the highest number with 19.2 percent. *With a report from AFP*



TRAFFIC is jammed as the Biyaheng Gloria caravan passes through España. EDWIN BACASMAS

Caravan says it has 13M votes for GMA landslide

THOUSANDS of partisans of President Macapagal-Arroyo from various non-government organizations, sectoral and party-list groups took to the streets of Metro Manila yesterday as a 45-day caravan called Biyaheng Gloria reached the city with what organizers claimed were the signatures of some eight million voters gathered from all over the country.

The Pro-Gloria (Progressive and Responsible Organizations for Genuine Leadership, Outstanding Reforms and Intelligent Action), said in a press statement the caravan was to turn over the signatures of support to President Macapagal in a gathering at Liwasang Bonifacio last night.

"We are here to celebrate the bandwagon of support for President Arroyo. These signatures is a clear proof that we have enough warm bodies of campaigners to ensure the victory of President Arroyo," declared Pro-Gloria secretary general Alex Cauguiran.

Cauguiran explained that the signatures would prove that their group was capable of securing the 13.5-million votes it promised to deliver to President Macapagal in Monday's elections.

At the same time, administration lawmakers said they would carry out "Oplan Landslide," which aims to ensure a clean and clear victory for Ms Macapagal, which they said became more imminent with her widening lead in the most recent Pulse Asia survey.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, Lakas chair for the Caraga region, and Nationalist People's Coalition secretary general Joseph "Ace" Durano of Cebu said the President's political machinery would add 10 percent to her victory margin.

Presidential Liaison Gabriel Claudio had announced that a landslide victory is now the new strategy of the administration coalition, doubling efforts to win over the undecided and opposition voters.

Pichay predicted the coalition's full force would widen the President's victory margin from the five million conservative estimate of Speaker Jose de Venecia to a whopping eight million votes.

Cauguiran noted that support organizations of Ms Macapagal had succeeded in forming campaign teams down to the precinct level, making it possible for them to deliver the votes to ensure the victory of their candidate.

No free lunch for Bro. Eddie supporters

DUMAGUETE CITY—Most presidential candidates will spend untold amounts of money during campaign sorties to bring in the crowds. But not Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

About 400 of the evangelist's supporters paid P350 each to hear the Bangon Pilipinas standard-bearer speak at a luncheon meeting at the Bethel Guest House here last Monday.

According to a pastor who helped organize the activity, the amount was to cover the buffet lunch as well as to raise funds for the Villanueva campaign.

The audience was not only eager to hear what the candidate had to say but heartily applauded when Villanueva said he was not only all out in his presidential bid but was even "willing to accommodate" any of his rivals willing to slide down to be his running mate.

He added he was making the offer to let God's plan unfold for the Philippines.

Villanueva received an endorsement from Quintin Doromal, former commissioner of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Doromal, a former president of the Silliman University here, read a letter addressed to his friends informing them of his family's decision to support Villanueva's presidential bid.

"Our country now needs to ask for God's help and guidance. We feel that Brother Eddie will give us this inspired leadership for God and country. He will help our society towards a moral transformation...We feel that Brother Eddie has the moral ascendancy to make this happen," he said. *Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau*

A MESSAGE TO MUSLIMS FROM THE SULTAN OF SULU.

This coming election is more than a political exercise. It is more than a fight for the Presidency. It is a fight for our destiny as a People Group and as a Nation.

For too long, politicians have been using my people for their selfish gains. We cannot afford to have another politician to run our government, or worse, one who has no idea how to run it. We want a man who is righteous and a man who cannot be bought. There is such a man – a man who dared to stand against all odds; a man who cannot be bought because the world is too poor to buy his convictions and principles.

That man is BRO. EDDIE VILLANUEVA.

Therefore, I, SULTAN, ESMAIL D. KIRAM II and the entire SULTANATE OF SULU, offer ourselves to the service of BRO. EDDIE VILLANUEVA, without any condition or concession. We offer ourselves out of our own convictions and volition because, finally, the Muslims in the Philippines have found a champion in BRO. EDDIE VILLANUEVA.

I call upon all the Muslims in the Philippines to unite and campaign relentlessly until BRO. EDDIE VILLANUEVA is firmly established in Malacañang.

This is a fight between good and evil. That is why;

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, I CHOOSE BRO. EDDIE!
BANGON PILIPINAS!

Paid for by the friends of Bro. Eddie

FPJ camp: With Muslim vote, who needs Iglesia?

By Carlito Pablo

COUNTERING growing speculation that President Macapagal-Arroyo has sewed up the bloc votes of two politically influential Christian sects, the camp of opposition candidate Fernando Poe Jr. is trumpeting that he has snagged the so-called "Muslim" vote.

Lito Anzures, a member of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, decried the undue focus on the sought-after endorsement of the Iglesia ni Cristo and the El Shaddai Catholic charismatic movement. Anzures is spokesperson of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, campaign manager of KNP.

He suggested that the media look at the Muslim support for Poe who, he claimed, got the categorical endorsement of Muslim "muftis," or religious leaders, in Zamboanga City on April 28.

Anzures claimed in a phone interview that these religious leaders "exert due influence on Muslims and even on members of armed groups like the MILF [Moro Islamic Liberation Front]."

He claimed that there were "8 million Muslim voters," a significant portion of which would be swayed by the muftis' endorsement of Poe.

He said the muftis rank higher in the Islamic hierarchy compared to the "ulamas" or religious teachers.

Asked if he was saying that Poe has the Muslim vote, Anzures asserted: "Absolutely."

He said he could not understand why the supposed endorsement of Poe by these muftis was "not given proper play in the media."

"This was something very definite and which is already in the bag," Anzures said.

He noted that while the potency of the so-called Muslim votes had been acknowledged in previous elections, "it was not as pronounced as [it is] this time around" for Poe.

KNP senatorial candidate Francisco Tatad declined to concede that the opposition, or at least Poe, has already lost the INC vote, estimated to be at least 2 million.

"I want to deal with the INC issue at the proper time," Tatad said in a separate interview.

Tatad asserted that despite reports that Ms Macapagal is about to secure the endorsement of certain bloc voters, the "ground support for the opposition has been consistent."

"It has not been affected by propaganda in the media that certain groups are inclined to support the administration," Tatad said.

But when pressed if he was including the INC among these groups, Tatad said: "I'm not referring to the INC."

No free condoms—DOH

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday stood pat on its decision not to buy condoms to give out for free, saying that the distribution of condoms did not ensure that the recipients would actually use them to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the prevention of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) did not rest on the free condoms but on the attitude of the Filipinos, which he said was "a major issue."

The Department of Health (DOH) dismissed a recent report by the international group Human Rights Watch warning of a "possible explosion" of HIV/AIDS because of the government's refusal to spend public funds to buy condoms for distribution.

"They have to think of how prevention (of HIV) works. Saying that using condoms is the best way to prevent the spread of HIV is one thing; saying that giving condoms for free ensures that people would actually use them is another," Dayrit said in an interview Tuesday night.

He cited the 43 percent contraceptive prevalence rate among Filipinos even after 30 years of giving free condoms to the public through health centers all over the country.

The Human Rights Watch's report that many sex workers still do not use condoms out of fear that these may be used as evidence to prosecute them contradicted the group's argument that giving them condoms would prevent HIV/AIDS, Dayrit pointed out.

He also said the government had been educating not only sex workers but also students on the use of condoms and the prevention of HIV/AIDS, contrary to the group's claim that high-risk groups did not have sufficient information on the disease.

He assured that even if some donors pulled out, condoms would be available in government facilities and health centers.

Davao mayor endorses Alvarez

By Cynthia D. Balana

AS THE CAMPAIGN for the May 10 elections entered the homestretch, independent senatorial candidate Heherson Alvarez received an outpouring of support from influential people and groups from the south despite his lack of political machinery and funds.

On Friday evening, Alvarez was endorsed by Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte in a big rally by the homegrown Hugpong sa Tawong Lungsod.

On Saturday, the mining community in Compostela Valley Province committed its support for Alvarez's bid to return to the Senate.

Yesterday, Alvarez was informed by the cultural minorities sector in the region that its members would campaign for his election.

They said that as environment secretary, Alvarez pushed for the grant of ancestral domain to various tribes.

Duterte, who presented Alvarez in a rally in the crowded Bankerohan area, acknowledged the key role of the former environment secretary in ending the 19-year-old conflict in the goldrush site in Mt. Diwalwal, Monkayo, Compostela Valley Province.

He said the income-sharing scheme introduced by Alvarez increased the income of small miners and brought in revenues to the government.

Alvarez also worked out the Mt. Diwalwal solution with Duterte, who helped in his capacity as regional peace and order chair.

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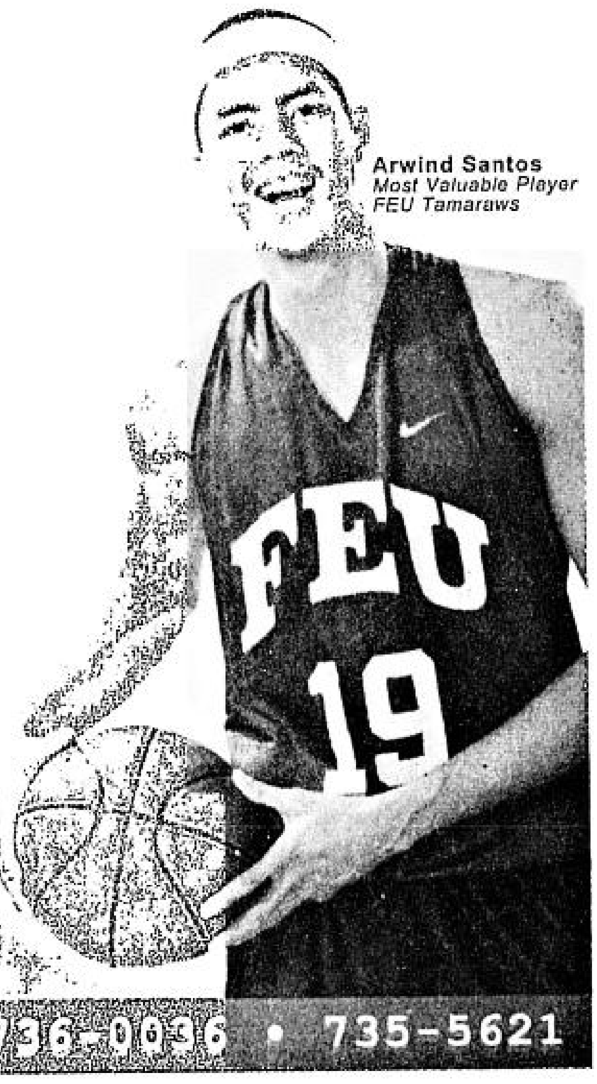

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Sandigan rejects Erap plea to get out and vote

THE SANDIGANBAYAN, citing security risks and the huge public expense involved, has denied jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada's petition to be allowed to vote in his polling precinct in Greenhills, San Juan, on May 10.

But the anti-graft court upheld Estrada's right to vote as it did in the May 2001 senatorial and 2002 barangay elections.

"Estrada is allowed to vote on May 10 at his place of detention at Camp Capinpin under Comelec [Commission on Elections] supervision," said the resolution signed by Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario and guest justices Ma. Cristina Cortez-Estrada and Diosdado Peralta.

Although it granted Estrada's request to vote, the court said it "should not lose sight of the due restrictions on the freedom of movement" of detention prisoners like Estrada, taking into account the "considerable security and safety measures" each time the ousted leader is allowed to leave the jail.

Estrada, who is being tried on graft and plunder charges, had asked for a 36-hour furlough so he could vote at Xavier School polling precinct near his San Juan home.

Estrada also asked, apart from voting, he be allowed to visit his ailing mother and sleep at the latter's Greenhills house.

The justices agreed with the prosecution's position that transporting Estrada from Tanay to San Juan would "involve enormous cost amounting to millions of pesos" which would be a burden to the people and the government.

The prosecution also said that Estrada's transfer "would imperil not only the personal safety of the accused but the public as well."

The justices said they found merit in the prosecution's arguments.

It recommended instead the same arrangements it provided during the 2001 and 2002 elections with regard to Estrada.

The court had allowed Estrada and his son Jinggoy, now free on bail, to vote at their place of detention in Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, in 2001 and at the Veterans Hospital in 2002 "under Comelec supervision."

The court noted that in the two previous elections, the Philippine National Police had also cautioned against the danger involved if Estrada were to be transferred on Election Day. *Armand N. Nocum*

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*Transparency International has recently listed Marcos and Estrada 2nd and 10th, respectively, in the 10 most corrupt regimes in the world during the last 20 years. They allegedly stole a combined amount of about US$10.08 billion, or about P600 billion.

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Bayan Muna lists 41 members slain since 2001 polls

FORTY-one members killed—and still counting.

The leftist Bayan Muna party-list group said it had already lost this many supporters since it made its debut in the 2001 elections, even as it filed a complaint yesterday against its main suspect for the killings: the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The group lodged a 12-page complaint before the Commission on Elections asking the poll body to stop the AFP from engaging in "direct physical intimidation of Bayan Muna members."

The military, apart from issuing "threats" to Bayan Muna supporters, has also been "directly campaigning for the electorate not to vote for the group," the complaint alleged.

The AFP has violated election laws and "overstepped its Constitutional mandate to be non-partisan," said Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo.

"The efforts to derail (our) reelection bid ... has become one of the bloodiest aspects of this election so far," he stressed.

'Abducted'

Of the 41 Bayan Muna members slain since 2001, six were killed during the campaign period leading to the May 10 polls, he said. Among the six was Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, Vice Mayor Juvy Magsino, a human rights lawyer.

Also, seven "abducted" Bayan Muna members remain missing to this day, Ocampo added.

Named as respondents in the complaint were AFP Chief of Staff, Gen. Narciso Abaya; Col. Nilo Perfecto, commanding officer of the 42nd Infantry Battalion; Col. Fernando Mesa, CO of the 204th Infantry Brigade; Capt. Louie Jean Marquez; and Lt. Commander Teddy Quinzon of the Navy.

The group said it has an "incriminating footage" of how heavily armed soldiers led by Mesa "cordoned" a human rights fact-finding team which included Bayan Members on April 15 to 18.

The team, it said, was trapped inside an Aglipayan church in Bagong Bayan, Roxas, Mindoro Oriental, for three straight days to prevent the investigation of alleged election-related military abuses in the neighboring towns of Bongabong and Pola.

On April 17 and 18, another unit led by Perfecto stopped a Bayan Muna campaign caravan in Camarines Sur, the complaint said. *Volt Contreras*

LUNAR ECLIPSE
The moon edges closer to a lunar eclipse as viewed in Metro Manila before dawn yesterday. Clear skies made it possible for Filipinos to view the lunar eclipse, which occurs when the Earth comes between the sun and the moon, so that the Earth casts its shadow on the moon. Earth's shadow covered the moon from 3:52 a.m. until 5:08. AP

MARCOS MONEY 'INTACT'

DAR denies funds misuse

By Volt Contreras

THE DEPARTMENT of Agrarian Reform yesterday belied a peasant group's allegation that a portion of the P38 billion recovered Marcos ill-gotten assets earmarked for land reform was being used to boost the election campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Jose Mari Ponce said the Bureau of Treasury had certified in a letter dated May 4 that the money was "still intact" and was "deposited" with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

The BSP holds part of the assets that are in dollars while the LBP keeps the peso component, Ponce told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Ponce stressed that the money, recovered from secret Swiss bank accounts maintained by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, has yet to be credited to the Agrarian Reform Fund.

He said the projects being questioned by the farmers were financed not by the recovered Marcos funds but from the DAR's share in the reenacted 2003 national budget.

Peasant leaders led by Jaime Tadeo accused Malacañang last week of allegedly dipping its hands into the ARF and using the money to fund the medical insurance, scholarship, road and water pump installation programs that Ms Macapagal has been mentioning in her campaign.

Ponce explained that the comprehensive agrarian reform program "is not all about land distribution" but also has a "social services component" that covers projects that provide additional assistance to land reform beneficiaries.

But he clarified that these projects have been going on long before Ms Macapagal became President and have yet to be funded.

The law states that all ill-gotten assets recovered from Marcos, his family and his associates should go to the comprehensive agrarian reform program.

On Tuesday, Haydee Yorac, the chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government that is tasked with the recovery of the assets that Marcos and his associates stole from the country, said Tadeo and his group should back their "verbal accusations" with proof.

Damaged Marcos bust gets a mask

By Frank Cimatu and Donna Demetillo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, Benguet—A collage of political posters, stickers and streamers was fashioned into a mask for the damaged concrete bust of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos in Barangay Taloy Sur here as a protest against the "pretentiousness of egoistic politicians" by Baguio artists.

Confiscated election paraphernalia taken down from areas where it was prohibited was wrapped around the eyes of the bust after a native priest exorcism rites for the Filipino politician during rituals held at the Marcos Park here yesterday. The mask covers the bust's eyes that were damaged after communist rebels bombed the structure on Dec. 29, 2002.

Theater director Ferdinand Balanag said his group asked the Commission on Elections if they could keep the confiscated materials for their installation art. "At first they refused, but they gave them all to us later," he said.

Balanag said the "Maskara ng Pulitikong Pinoy (Mask of the Filipino Politician)" activity was their way of making political and environmental statements. "*Ganoon tayo noon, paano tayo ngayon* (That was us then, what happens to us now)?" is the event's slogan.

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Gospel:	Jn 13:16-20

[After Jesus had washed the feet of the disciples he said,] "Truly, I say to you, the servant is not greater than his master, nor is the messenger greater than he who sent him. Understand this, and blessed are you if you put it into practice.

"I am not speaking of you all, because I know the ones I have chosen and the Scripture has to be fulfilled that says, The one who shared my table has risen against me. I tell you this now before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may know that I am He.

"Truly, I say to you, whoever welcomes the one I send, welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the One who sent me."

Commentary

"I never saw, heard, nor read that the clergy were beloved in any nation where Christianity was the religion of the country. Nothing can render them popular but some degree of persecution," wrote Jonathan Swift, the acerbic author of Gulliver's Travels. 18th-century Europe attempted nothing short of the total annihilation of religion. Swift was himself a clergyman, and may be thought to speak from experience; but his temperament was more that of the persecutor. He persecuted the foolish, and parodied their follies. His tombstone mentions his "savage indignation," saeva indignatio. These words would be highly suitable to the headstones of many writers of that age. In particular there was an Italian, Giannone, whose works are a sustained howl of fury at the power of the Church and clergy.

In Christian art and in Christian life why hasn't more been made, through the ages, of that scene in the Gospel: Jesus washing the disciples' feet? The Church was too often distracted with other concerns: power, precedence, law and order. Had it always remained faithful to the spirit of the Gospel Giannone might have been a Vincent de Paul. And Swift—well, there should never be a world without a Swift!

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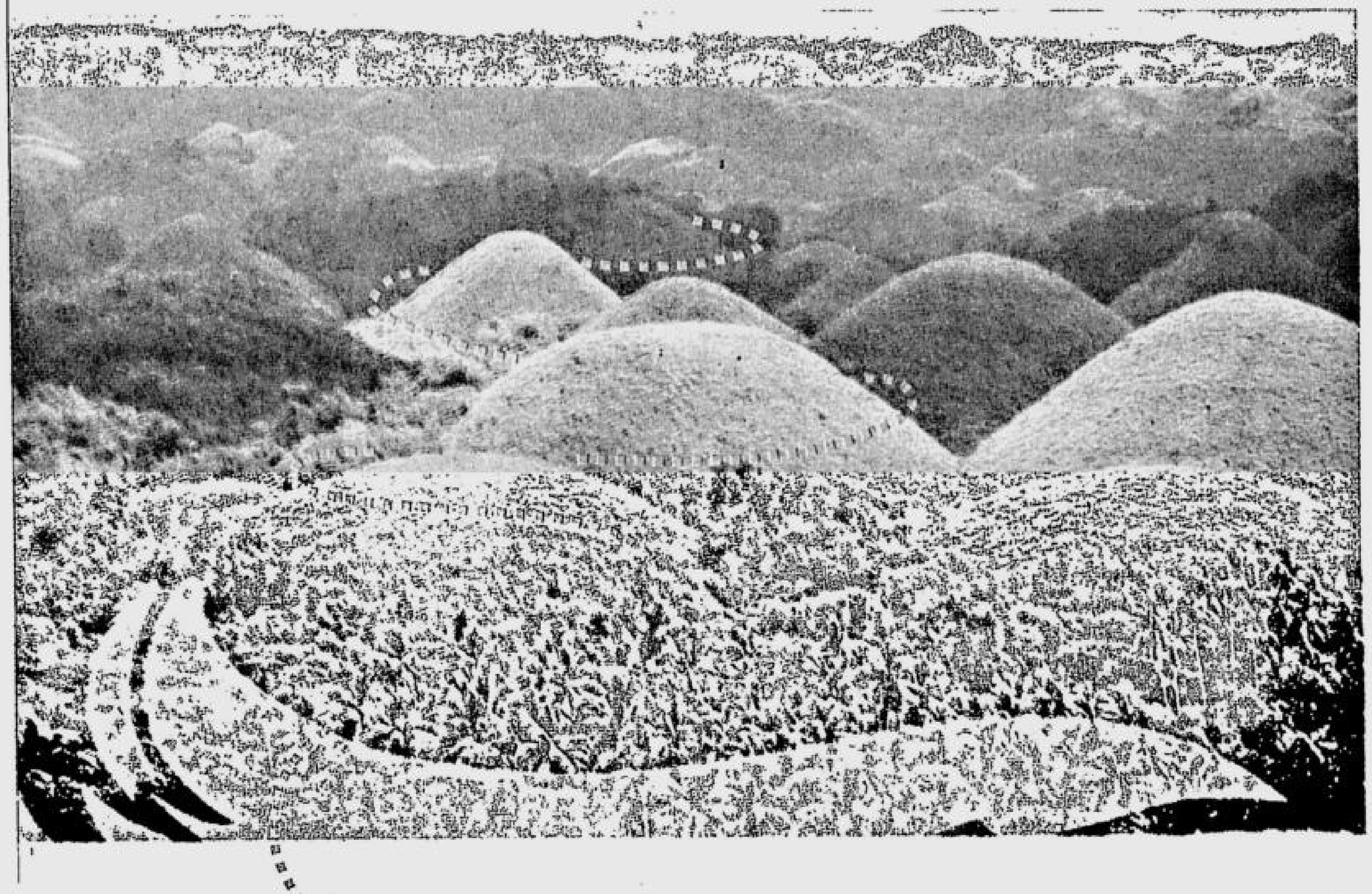

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'FPJ' FOR PING Ping Lacson and Fernando Poe Jr. united at last? Not quite. It's just FPJ look-alike Fernando Sacdalan playfully endorsing opposition presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson in Binondo, a known Lacson bailiwick. JESS YUSON

AVOIDING A CIRCUS

Lacson scraps El Shaddai visit

By Norman Bordadora

BIÑAN, Laguna—Presidential candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson cancelled his visit to Sta. Cruz town for a gathering of the El Shaddai Catholic charismatic group on Tuesday night after receiving word that its members were afraid their spiritual service would turn into a political and media circus.

Earlier, Lacson said he was invited by the group to attend the Sta. Cruz gathering, and that he was hoping to get its endorsement.

The El Shaddai is led by former President Joseph Estrada's spiritual adviser, Bro. Mike Velarde.

However, Velarde's spokesperson, Mel Robles, told the INQUIRER that the El Shaddai doesn't usually invite candidates to their gatherings ... "We didn't invite him," he said. "He may have been misinformed."

But Lacson said it was Velarde's brother, Rod, who had asked him to drop by the El Shaddai service. "No less than Bro. Mike's brother, Rod, asked us (on Tuesday) if we could drop by Sta. Cruz. I'm not one to invite myself," Lacson said.

The senator said he decided not to go after he received a text message saying Velarde decided to do away with his visit because of the presence of too many media people.

"That was the reason they gave. I just don't know if they were pressured by Ms Macapagal," Lacson added.

Velarde was expected to grace the gathering, and a meeting between him and Lacson would have triggered speculations on the El Shaddai's choice for president.

Lacson, who has made it a point to visit chapels of the religious sect Iglesia ni Cristo upon the invitation of local ministers on his provincial sorties, was considered a favorite for the INC endorsement until reports leaked out that the it had already decided on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We respect the hierarchy's decision," Lacson said of the INC's move, although he added that while the sect has yet to make its endorsement of the President final, his group has yet to receive information about it.

"It's sad because we already developed personal attachments with our brethren in the INC," he added.

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Namfrel poll results out in a week

UNOFFICIAL results of next week's Philippine elections will be known in less than a week, thanks to thousands of volunteers using text messages to send vote counts to Manila, the head of a poll watchdog said yesterday.

In the last presidential elections in 1998, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) took two weeks to come up with its final tally of votes for the president and candidates vying for seats in the Senate and Congress.

"We will know the results of the elections in four to seven days after balloting," Namfrel executive director Guillermo Luz told reporters.

He demonstrated new computer software that will allow counts from more than 200,000 voting precincts nationwide to be sent through a short messaging system via mobile phones to a counting center in the capital.

Namfrel has direct access to ballots. It previously used electronic mail or fax to collate results, but the mechanism was slow as not every polling station had computers or fax machines.

Mobile phone texting is hugely popular in the gossip-loving nation, with more than 100 million short messages sent every day.

About 50,000 volunteers will be mobilized for Namfrel's quick count operation. About 43 million Filipinos will cast votes, from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m., on Monday to elect more than 17,000 officials at all government levels.

The race for the presidency has boiled down to incumbent Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and movie star Fernando Poe Jr., who has lagged the president in latest opinion polls.

Namfrel's unofficial results have generally been accurate predictions of the official vote tally, which is unlikely to be known for at least a month.

The body, seen as a vital bulwark against election cheating, has been conducting quick counts since the 1986 snap election between the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and subsequent president Corazon Aquino.

"We expect the earliest results to come in at about 10 p.m. or 11 p.m. on the day of election," Luz told a news conference.

"The bulk of the results are expected between 4 am and 8 am the next day."

Reuters

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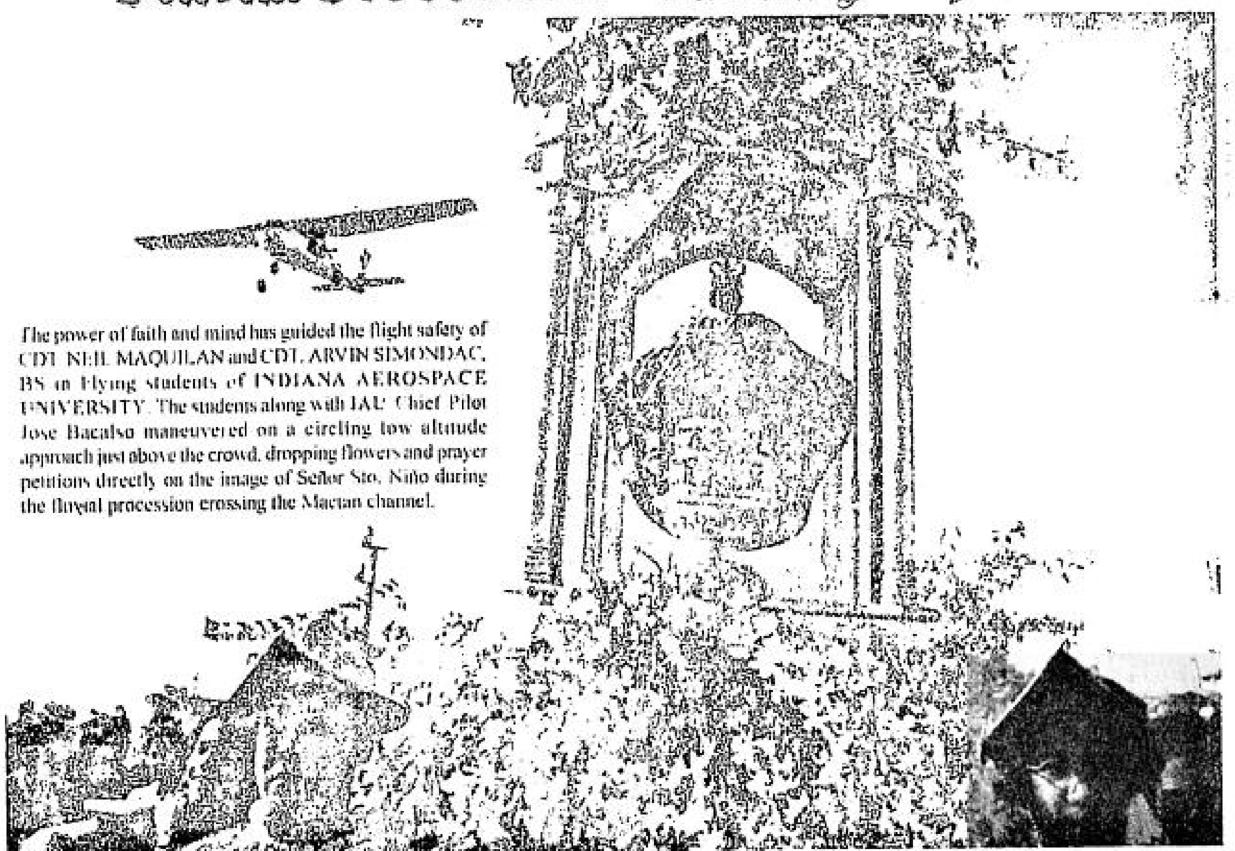

The Highlights of Sto. Niño de Cebu Fluvial Procession - January 17, 2004

The power of faith and mind has guided the flight safety of CDT. NEIL MAQUILAN and CDT. ARVIN SIMONDAC, BS in Flying students of INDIANA AEROSPACE UNIVERSITY. The students along with IAU Chief Pilot Jose Bacalso maneuvered on a circling low altitude approach just above the crowd, dropping flowers and prayer petitions directly on the image of Señor Sto. Niño during the fluvial procession crossing the Mactan channel.

Agustinian priests and seminarians carried the image of Señor Sto. Niño during his feast day. Hundreds of thousands of devotees and pilgrims lined up the ramp of the Cebu Port Terminal while the BS in Criminology students of Indiana Aerospace University majoring in Aviation and Airport Security provided security and safety for the participants of the fluvial procession. The procession saw IAU's Training Aircraft RPC-50 drop roses and prayers at the image of the Señor Sto. Niño continuously, while flying at a low altitude of 500 ft. The flight safety for 3-hours and the refueling of the RPC-50 in the ground were closely monitored and facilitated by BS in Aircraft Maintenance [illegible] students of Indiana

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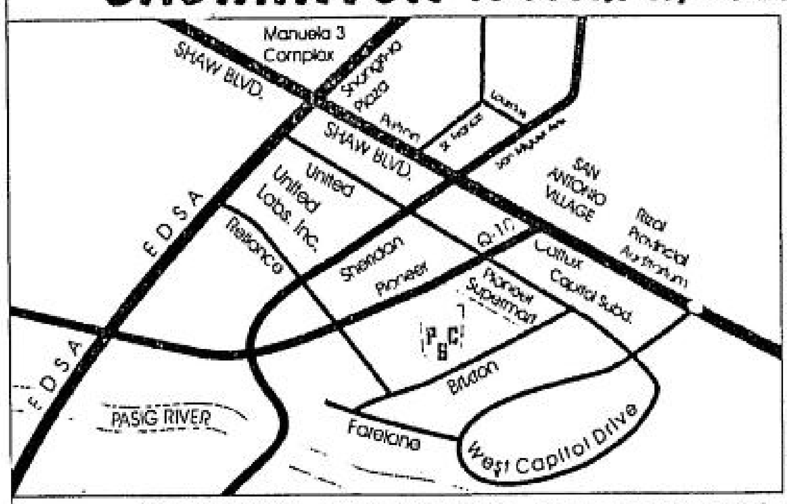

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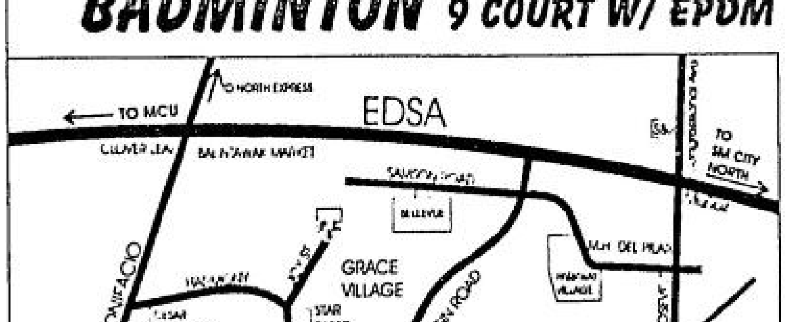

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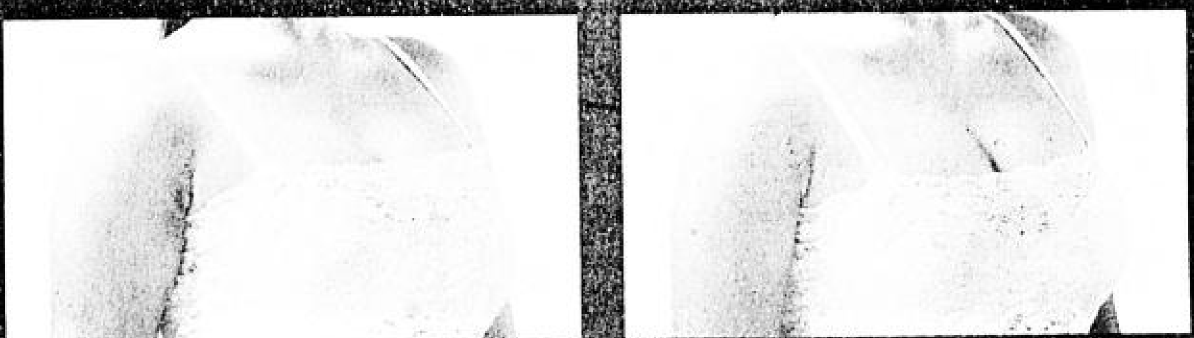

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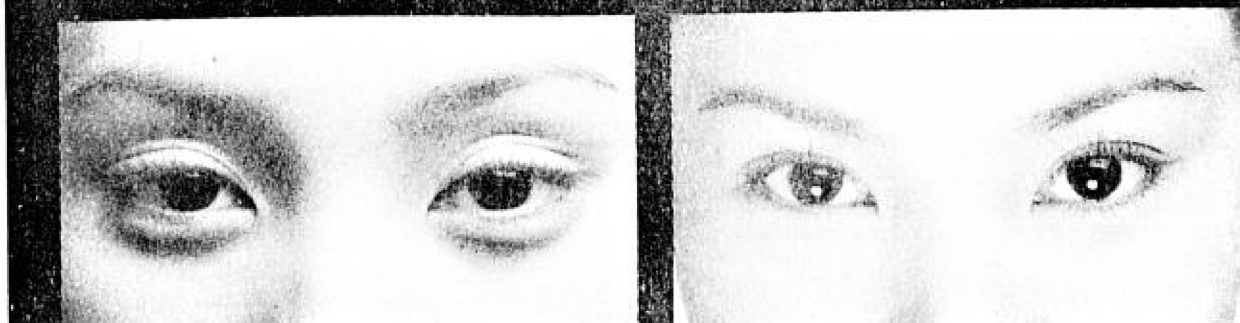

'Di tulad nito, wala nang dagdag-bawas sa boto mo.

Halalan 2004
Eleksyon na naman. 'Di piring ang ating mga mata sa mga pandarayang tulad ng dagdag-bawas. Dahil dito, 'di talabas ang tunay na tinig ng tao.

Ngayon, sa Halalan 2004, may sistema ang Comelec laban sa dagdag-bawas.

Gagamit ng mga computers para makuha, at TV monitoring para mabantayan ang bilangan. May VSAT kung saan gagamit ng *satellite transmission* para masiguradong ligtas at mabilis ang pagpapadala ng boto sa lahat ng mga munisipyo at siyudad

Ang mga ito'y paniguro ng Comelec para kung anong ibinoto ay siya ring bibilangin.

"Boto ating bantayan. Taumbayan, Comelec inyong tulungan upang makamtan malinis na halalan."
– Hon. Benjamin S. Abalos
Chairman, COMELEC

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4 dead, 6 wounded in Cavite shoot-out

From page A1

ence City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija.

Munoz police said that Corpuz was shot at close range and died while being taken to a hospital. He was running for reelection under the ticket of Mayor Nestor Alvarez of the Bagong Lakas ng Nueva Ecija (Balane).

Police said they were still investigating if the attack was politically motivated.

Fatalities

The Trece Martires clash shattered the general peace that had prevailed in Cavite since the start of the election season last Dec. 15. Prior to Tuesday, no election-related violence had occurred in the province.

An official PNP report showed the province has at least four private armies serving different sitting politicians.

Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police director, identified three of the four fatalities in Trece Martires as Noel Sierra, 37, a jailguard at the Cavite Provincial Jail; Ramon Vinalon, 46, resident of Barangay Osorio; Teodoro de Jesus, 38, a barangay councilor of Barangay Gregorio.

The fourth fatality was still unidentified.

Wounded were Colorado's supporters identified as barangay captains Librado Sierra, 62, of Barangay Aguado and Denver Colorado, 30, of Barangay Gregorio.

The four others wounded were identified as coordinators for De Sagun—Julian Salazar, 61, Angelito Garcia, 53, Jaypee Buenaventura, 20, and Jun Rollo.

Plea for help

All were rushed to the Tanza Family General Hospital and De La Salle Hospital in Dasmariñas town.

Rosales said initial investigation showed that, a few hours before the gun battle, a certain Tessie Distor called Colorado's headquarters, asking for help.

The caller said alleged followers of De Sagun had been seen surrounding her house inside Phase 2 of the Capitol Hills Subdivision.

When Colorado's men, on board six vehicles, went to check, the group met De Sagun's supporters, police said.

It was around 11 p.m. and De Sagun was in a caucus with his community leaders, according to the police.

Heated argument

"After Distor called for help, Colorado's men arrived at the area to check," Rosales told the INQUIRER. "Apparently, they met the supporters of Mayor de Sagun and they engaged in a heated argument."

"Suddenly, guns were fired. But we have yet to ascertain who started the firefight," Rosales said.

He said De Sagun had just started delivering a speech to his leaders when the shoot-out occurred along Flamingo Street, about three blocks away.

Colorado's alleged bodyguard, Jose Mojica, was arrested by police while supposedly trying to escape from the scene. A .45 cal. automatic was recovered from him.

Police also arrested Marvin Villa, said to be a supporter of De Sagun.

Also recovered from the crime scene were an M16 Armalite, a baby Armalite, a shotgun, a mini Uzi and a 9mm handgun.

Even before the gun battle, police had already noticed an escalating tension between the camps of De Sagun and Colorado, Rosales said.

Rising tension

The police chief said he had actually spoken with all the candidates for mayor and vice mayor in the province hours before the shoot-out and arranged for a meeting with them.

The meeting had been scheduled for 11 a.m., yesterday at the Southwoods Golf and Country Club in Carmona town.

"We knew there was tension between them that's why I called for a meeting," Rosales said. "Unfortunately, it happened just before that meeting. This could have been averted."

Cavite Vice Gov. Johnvic Remulla said he knew about the row between the rival candidates two weeks ago and told Rosales about it.

Two 'barakos'

"De Sagun and Colorado were both 'barako' (tough guys). They were both uncompromising. The friction between them seemed inevitable," Remulla said.

In the 2001 local elections, Colorado lost to De Sagun when he was still with the Magdalo Party.

Remulla, the Magdalo's secretary general, said the party decided to drop Colorado in favor of Perding Panganiban when it chose its official candidate.

"We know he's capable of doing (things) like this so the Magdalo members decided not to make him our candidate. And true enough, he's really into it. This was really very unfortunate," Remulla said.

Rosales said policemen met with De Sagun and Colorado after the incident but the two declined to give any statements. He said the two were still consulting with their lawyers.

New security force

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Reynaldo Varilla immediately ordered the pullout of all police personnel of the city and asked the Commission on Elections to put the entire city under its control.

Varilla said he had already ordered the Police Provincial Mobile Group to take over the security of Trece Martires.

Police have also intensified intelligence monitoring in Cavite and in at least seven towns in the region where there have been threats of violence from armed groups.

"We are pulling out the entire police force in Trece Martires and replacing it with another unit," Varilla said. "This is to ensure impartiality in the investigation."

Varilla said he would also add checkpoints in the entire Calabarzon as part of a crackdown on people carrying firearms without the necessary permits.

Senior Supt. Perfecto Palad, Calabarzon police chief for operations, said he had beefed up troops in areas with a history of election violence.

List lengthens

Trece Martires became the latest addition to the lengthening list of areas which the Philippine National Police had recommended placed under Comelec control.

The list now includes five cities, 51 towns, and 12 provinces.

The PNP identified these areas, besides Trece Martires, as the cities of San Carlos in Pangasinan, Santiago in Isabela, Masbate, and Ligao in Albay.

The provinces are Abra, Kalinga, Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, Pangasinan, Cagayan, Isabela, Albay, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Zambo Sibugay.

PNP operations chief Director Avelino Razon clarified that not all the towns and cities in these provinces were recommended to be placed under Comelec control.

In areas under its control, the Comelec would have direct supervision over all security forces.

Razon said the warring mayoral candidates in Trece Martires could both be disqualified for election law violation if it was proved that they maintained private armed groups.

24 candidates killed

Of the total 73 people killed in the current campaign, 24 were candidates.

The overall death toll has already exceeded the tally of 50 dead recorded in the 1998 national elections but is below the 111 killed in the 2001 congressional and local polls. *With reports from Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Bro. Eddie's thousands out to disprove surveys

From page A1

same. The day after, he was back in Makati, for the historic Lantaran rally, to disprove surveys that Brother Eddie had only 3, at most 5, percent of the votes. The following day was his Dipolog, Ozamiz and Pagadian sorties.

Villanueva has every intention to finish the scheduled provincial sorties before he takes a break on May 9. This day he will spend praying and reading the Bible in an undisclosed place.

"For security reasons," Brother Eddie explains. "*May natanggap 'yung* intelligence group *na may gustong yumari sa akin at gagawing* fall guy *si* Eddie Gil (There are intelligence reports that someone's out to get me and will use Eddie Gil as fall guy)."

Sounds like another Eddie Gil joke, but in this season of political violence, one cannot afford to laugh at the slightest suggestion of danger.

Surveying the truth

Surveys are a sensitive issue for Villanueva, as it is with other presidential candidates who are not in first or second place.

The latest surveys from Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia have Brother Eddie in last place with ratings of 2.8 percent and 3 percent, respectively.

"I don't believe the surveys," Brother Eddie told the INQUIRER last week. "The results—especially my reported weak position or rating—are unbelievable and ridiculous."

He pointed out: "If I only have 3 percent of 40 million voters, or 1.2 million, where's the rest of the 2.8 million people who came to Luneta on Feb. 22?"

(The INQUIRER Research Department did the math. Aerial photos of the Feb. 22 rally indicate that Villanueva's supporters filled the Quirino Grandstand to the Roxas Boulevard area, which has a combined land area of 122,671 sq. m. Based on the least dense estimate of 1.56 people per sq. m. and the most dense estimate of 8 people per sq. m. the crowd count could be as low as 191,367 or as high as 981,368. These are incredibly large numbers, but way below the reported 2.8 million.)

"Can (a sampling of) 1,200 people represent the beliefs of 40 million voters?" He continued: "These surveys are being used in trending. A source from the demolition team of another camp has admitted to me that my genuine standing in their internal survey is between 12 and 15 percent. But such figures are hidden from view, cannibalized and reduced to between 3 and 5 percent."

Villanueva suggested that the objective of the "suppressed" surveys was to condition the minds of people for his supposed eventual defeat, thus preparing public opinion for massive election fraud.

"*Duon sila kukuha kay* Brother Eddie *ng dagdag-bawas para sa kanilang kandidato* (They will shave off Brother Eddie's votes and pad their candidate's)," he said.

Tops in radio, text, PMAP

Villanueva may lag behind in SWS, Pulse and Ibon surveys, but he topped informal surveys done by dzRH, Globe and Smart, and the "job interviews" conducted by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines.

The dzRH survey, conducted in March, received a total of 56,810 responses through text messages from 6 a.m. Monday to 6 a.m. Wednesday. Deducting 3,463 responses, subsequently determined as having come from the same cell phones, leaves 53,347 text votes for the six presidential candidates.

Brother Eddie received 21,005 votes or 39.37 percent, followed by President Macapagal-Arroyo with 11,275 votes or 21.14 percent.

In a separate text survey of Globe and Smart subscribers, Villanueva received 26,761 votes or 32.33 percent as of April 17. Fernando Poe Jr., received 16,867 votes or 20.38 percent, while Ms Macapagal got 15,992 votes or 19.32 percent. Total number of voters was 82,749.

Last month, PMAP conducted "job interviews" with presidential candidates Villanueva, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former Secretary Raul Roco, and businessman Eddie Gil. Ms Macapagal and FPJ declined the invitation.

According to PMAP, Villanueva appeared to be the most qualified, showing himself to be a mobilizer, guardian and captivator—three of five competencies that, PMAP said, were required of a president.

Tops online survey

The Mindanao Times interactive online survey of April 26 showed Villanueva with 66.7 percent, while Ms Macapagal had only 19.8 percent. There were 940 submitted votes.

An independent group called "Bro. Eddie for President" launched on April 1 an online petition for supporters through its website, www.broeddie4president.com. As of May 3, the site has logged 2,138,243 signatures for Villanueva.

Under the stars, with stars

There is an interesting development in Villanueva's political rallies.

Used to be, they were lectures, fora or prayer rallies held in auditoriums or gyms, with few or no show biz personalities. If they did invite entertainers, these guests just usually gave "testimonies" or explained why they were voting for Brother Eddie. Sometimes, they would sing spiritual songs.

His rally in Tondo last week was different. It was held under the stars, in front of the tenement housing in Barangay Kapatiran, with a view of the former dump site.

At dusk, a hundred people sat in monobloc chairs in front of a makeshift stage propped against a small flatbed truck. The chairs had the letters JIL (Jesus is Lord, the three-million strong church founded by Villanueva) etched at the back. They sat quietly and patiently while a Bangon rally organizer made speeches, did some bad impersonations of presidents—Marcos, FVR, Erap—but not any of the current "presidentiables" and certainly not of Brother Eddie.

There was a presentation by Bangon Kabataan on why they were voting for Villanueva. There were practice cheers of "Bro-ther Eddie!" and "Pag-ba-bago!" There were more speeches.

Just when the organizer was running out of things to say and traffic—mostly trucks and container vans—was building up, Villanueva and, get this, his caravan of stars finally arrived.

Where's Piolo?

"After the Bangon Artista group was formed last month, they volunteered to go with Brother Eddie on his sorties," explained Kata Inocencio, host of "Diyos at Bayan" aired on Zoe Channel 11. "Unlike other entertainers who are paid millions to campaign for other presidential candidates, our artists believe in Brother Eddie so they campaign for free."

Comedian Tonette Macho apologized on behalf of everyone for being late. They had come from Baseco where people now lived in cardboard boxes in the aftermath of a fire that razed thousands of homes. They couldn't just hurry up and leave.

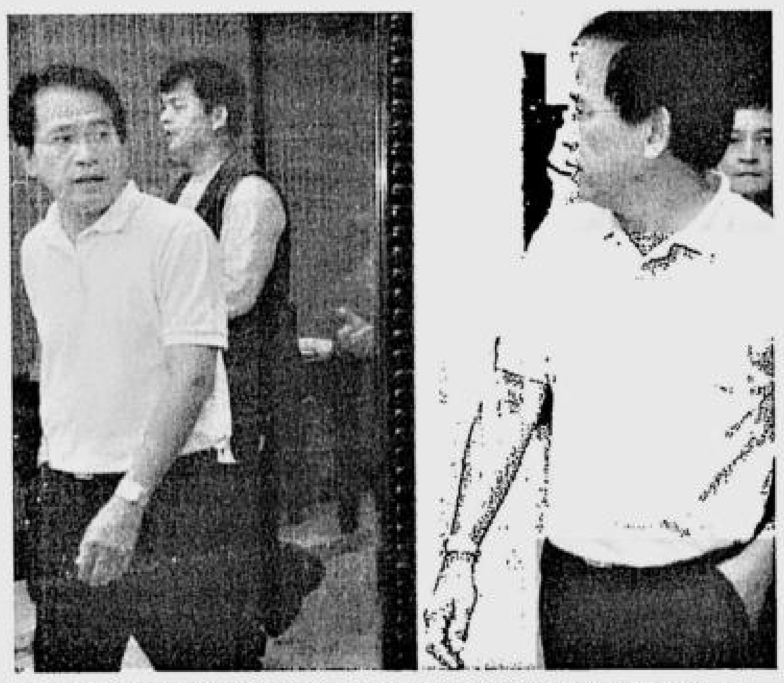
On a lighter note, Tonette enumerated Bangon Artista members who were for Brother Eddie: Carla Martinez, Melissa Mendez, Dolphy Jr., Pen Medina, Nonoy Zuñiga, Piolo Pascual ...

Piolo Pascual?

The crowd started to thicken. Good thing there was a breeze.

One by one, the entertainers took turns at the microphone, each giving a few words about Brother Eddie. Some even sang.

But even after Brother Eddie had finished his 45-minute speech, which was cheered with "Amen" and chants of "Pag-ba-bago" and "Diyos at Bayan," there was no sign of Piolo.



REFLECTIONS of the messenger of good news: The Miting de Avance today at the Quirino Grandstand will surpass his Feb. 22 rally when a reported 2.8 million people flocked to kick off his presidential campaign. AP

Makati rally

The hottest summer in recent memory decided to take a break on April 29 when, before noon, it started to rain.

It wasn't a downpour—just enough to wash away the dust, clear the smog and lower temperatures. At 1 p.m., the sky cleared—it was still cloudy, but with bright patches of blue. A cool wind completed what was definitely great weather for Bro. Eddie's rally in Makati.

When things like this happen, one can't help but think: Is this mere coincidence? Or could God be on Brother Eddie's side? What's next—the parting of traffic on Edsa?

Confetti rained from the tallest buildings on Ayala Avenue as Villanueva walked ... no, actually he was carried on a tsunami of yellow all the way to the intersection of Paseo de Roxas, just beside the Ninoy Aquino monument where awaited a makeshift stage.

Bro. Eddie flashed the V or peace sign with his fingers and made motions like he was coaxing the crowd—all dressed up in "Brother Eddie for president" T-shirts—to rise. Bangon Pilipinas! (Rise, Philippines!) Or maybe he was just trying not to lose his balance.

Safely onstage, Villanueva surveyed the sea of yellow and figured there must be, at most, 100,000 people. Police estimates were nearer 10,000. Or maybe 20,000.

Whatever, Brother Eddie's party was convinced the rally disproved surveys that said he was at the bottom of the ratings. It also managed to tie up traffic from noon down, and got pictures of Villanueva on the front page of every broadsheet.

Miting de Avance

Today, Villanueva hopes to surpass his Feb. 22 rally at the Quirino Grandstand in Rizal Park, when a reported 2.8 million faithful came in full force.

He will be the first presidential hopeful to stage a *miting de avance*, also at the Quirino Grandstand. Bangon has reserved the site for eight hours—from 2 to 10 p.m., with supporters from all over Luzon trooping in by bus. He will address them at about 6:30 p.m.

"We expect four million people to participate in the biggest political rally in the nation's history," said his spokesperson Lawyer Luis Sison. Not to mention the silent majority among businessmen, people in government, maybe even Piolo Pascual!

Unstoppable

Sison said the only thing that would stop the throng would be political harassment. He cited reports that some buses might be stopped on their way to Rizal Park. Simultaneous rallies will be held in Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro cities, he added.

Inocencio, who's with Bangon Pilipinas media, said that Pascual, who has a tight schedule (he is rumored to sleep in his van on account of back-to-back commitments), promised to show up in Rizal Park.

Although ABS-CBN reportedly discourages its exclusive contract talents to campaign for opposition candidates (they came out with an official statement denying this), Pascual, a born-again Christian of the Victory Church, does not hide his admiration for Brother Eddie.

In a published interview, today's hottest film and TV star was asked who his choice for president was. Pascual said: "Someone who's God-fearing ... and definitely a Christian."

Tomorrow, Villanueva will be in Bulacan for another rally. And on Saturday, last day of the campaign, to prove once more that they have the numbers, his supporters will form a human chain from Monumento to Baclaran.

"You will see a lot. A lot of people, a lot of passion. We are seeing the fruits of our labor," Sison said.

Josiah's Army

The soldiers of Brother Eddie are working overtime to send a righteous man to the highest office in the land. The strategy is to get two million people, each of whom will convince seven other people to vote for Villanueva. Doing the math, that's 14 million right there.

At last count, Villanueva said, there are 3.2 million members of Josiah's Army. They intend to win over the survey's soft or undecided votes, which total 30 percent.

Relying on the spirit of volunteerism, Brother Eddie's supporters have thought up the most creative endeavors—from the simple act of wearing yellow and green (Villanueva's campaign colors) friendship bands, to joining "Operation: Green Mango," where people drive around the city with yellow and green ribbons and maybe a Brother Eddie poster or two taped to their cars.

Many others who are not into network marketing or Green Mango cruising are training to become poll watchers.

If they see cheating, will they turn the other cheek?

"They will fight for the truth. They will not resort to violence, but they will document what they see, get media to report the cases of cheating," Brother Eddie said.

On the eve of May 10, Josiah's Army will be fasting, holding prayer meetings in their homes, and praying for a violence-free and peaceful elections.

Muslim vote

While Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai seem to have cast their votes over to the administration's side, Brother Eddie issued a statement that he is against bloc voting.

"I don't want the Filipino people reduced to robots by their religious leaders," said Villanueva. "I want to educate the Filipino on how to vote. They should express their convictions in choosing their candidate."

Copycats

The evangelist noted that his rivals have been copying his agenda of national renewal and echoing his slogan, "*Maniwala Ka, Babangon ang Pilipinas* (The Philippines Will Rise, Believe It)!" after seeing how it touched many people.

He's cool about it. In a press briefing on Monday in Dumaguete City, where he wrapped up his Visayas and Mindanao campaigns, he said: "They can copy our message but they cannot copy the messenger."

In an unexpected twist of faith, last week, the Sultan of Sulu and Borneo endorsed Villanueva, assuring him of 270,000 votes. His Royal Highness Sultan Mohammad Ismael Kiram III said this was because Brother Eddie was the only candidate who did not ask for it. Ms Macapagal, Poe and Lacson had sought the sultan's help.

"Some have offered very enticing promises, but their agenda is only for their selfish gain and for the political party they are beholden to," the Sultan said.

E-mail warning

The following e-mail (shortened version) was sent to Brother Eddie's supporters and friends in early April.

"As the days wear on, you will get text messages from dubious sources in the vain hope of spreading disillusionment. . . . The last text message will likely be that Brother Eddie has withdrawn from the race. Don't believe any such text messages or headlines. Brother Eddie will never ever withdraw from this race, or even slide down from his presidential candidacy. Just keep on moving. Nothing can stop us. Our battle is the Lord's."

Sure enough, just last week, it was rumored that Bangon Pilipinas had coalesced with Roco's camp and that Brother Eddie had agreed to slide to vice president.

Villanueva said, not without holy indignation: "I will never slide down. It's non-negotiable."

A miracle

He proceeded to talk about a miracle, a landslide victory never before seen in Philippine elections. But if it does not come to pass, he's not going to lose faith in God.

He said: "History will record that I did not close the door on God's plan to move a country in a time such as this. I did not deny the Filipino people a chance to make a crucial decision not only for the good of the country, but for the good of their children, and their children's children."

'Da King' makes amends

From page A1

sought out reporters who walked out on him only hours ago during his Pangasinan sortie, to patch up things.

But out of the nine print journalists, Poe found only two— Nikko Dizon of Philippine Star and Ian Cruz of Abante—who turned up at his rally in Urdaneta along with 11 other media men who did not join the protest action.

"*Pasensya na kayo* (Please bear with me)," Cruz quoted the actor as saying. And then, shaking his hand, Cruz added, Poe said he "was only joking."

Dizon confirmed that Poe apologized for the "misunderstanding."

"*Ilang araw na lang 'to; tapusin na natin na magkakasama tayo* (There are only a few days remaining; let's finish this together," Poe told her, Dizon said.

To join unity Mass

Yesterday, the actor also offered an olive branch to President Macapagal-Arroyo as they prepared to face off in less than a week.

The movie star said he had changed his mind about a "unity" Roman Catholic Mass on Sunday with the four other presidential candidates. He had begged off on Tuesday, with his camp saying he went to Mass every day, and that religion should not be dragged into politics.

"Yes, I will be joining on Sunday. I am going ... I will be there," Poe told reporters as he campaigned in Manila's Pandacan district.

The Mass for clean, honest and peaceful balloting, set at the San Agustin Cathedral in Intramuros, is sponsored by former President Corazon Aquino.

Asked if he had a message for Ms Macapagal, Poe said: "I wish her good health and may she always be happy."

No walkout?

The Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino standard-bearer had engaged the media men covering his campaign in a veritable game of hide-and-seek, which peaked on Tuesday, when he complained that their interviews of the past few days had not seen print, anyway.

This, plus Poe's personal campaign manager Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III saying "Da King" would give an interview that day only if television reporter Sandra Aguinaldo were excluded, was unacceptable to the nine reporters. They sent Poe a dissenting letter and were on their way, cutting their coverage short.

Regrettable

No apology was forthcoming from Sotto. He denied that he had wanted Aguinaldo banned from any interview, or that a walkout actually transpired. The reporters had merely sulked ("*nagtampo*") he said in a phone interview, castigating "FPJ bashers for blowing Tuesday's incident out of proportion."

But one of the KNP's senatorial candidates, Francisco Tatad, deemed it fitting to express "regret" voluntarily during a press briefing, also yesterday.

"If there has been any breach in the professional conduct of the campaign with respect to the rights of the press, I reiterate my regret," said Tatad, a former journalist. "I'm appealing to members of the media to be a little more understanding of the shortcomings of some of my colleagues."

He was certain that "the incident could have been avoided. And then, without indicating whether he was referring to Poe or Sotto, Tatad said: "I hope that concerned parties would do everything to make sure that they come to a satisfactory conclusion and that hurt feelings could be addressed."

Ignorance of political issues

Heckling from administration congressmen was inevitable. Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles and Davao Oriental Rep. Mayo Almario said Poe's tiff with the journalists was meant to camouflage ignorance of political issues.

"Once again, Poe has shown his aggressive character, which is symptomatic of a hostile presidency if he wins," Nograles said.

Almario tugged at the working press' heartstrings: "Poe's temper does not complement the sincere man he claims himself to be. He should prove that he also has the heart for reporters who risk the dangers of the campaign trail just to cover him."

And then he went for the kill: "People prefer a candidate like President Macapagal-Arroyo who offer them hope and inspiration rather than someone like Poe who [conducts] a negative campaign lacking in platform presentation." *With a report from AFP*

Ateneo law . . .

From page A1

Singapore in the final round on April 3.

This is the second time in the 45-year history of the Jessup Cup that the Philippine team won the international rounds, with the Ateneo team being unbeaten from the preliminary rounds all the way to the finals, according to Villanueva. In the process it defeated teams from Germany, Australia, Austria and the National University of Singapore in the final round.

The team was composed of Frederick Ryan Castillo, Aimee Bernadette Dabu, Andrew Fornier, Justine Adrienne Guerrero and Ryan Mancera, with Silvia Jo Sabio as the coach.

In a statement, Villanueva said winning the Jessup Cup was considered in many countries a national event. The 2004 Jessup Cup's international rounds saw the participation of 94 teams from over 80 countries, representing the most prestigious law schools like those from Harvard and Michigan.

Highest in bar exams

The ALS is not only excelling in international debating competitions, but also in the bar exams.

Villanueva said ALS achieved the highest passing percentage among law schools in the 2003 bar examinations, according to data the Supreme Court released through Justice Leonardo A. Quisumbing, chair of the 2004 Bar Examinations Committee.

Quisumbing released the Statistical Data for the 2003 Bar Examinations at a meeting with the deans of the various law schools belonging to the Philippine Association of Law Schools.

Villanueva said 83.97 percent of ALS graduates who took the bar exams last year passed. The San Beda Law School came in second with a passing percentage of 79.31 percent, followed by the UP College of Law (75.83 percent), and the Ateneo de Davao University (61.76 percent).

The national passing average for the 2003 bar examinations was 20.71 percent.

Villanueva noted that ALS graduates garnered the 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th places in the top 10.

For the past 13 years (from 1991 when the first graduates of the J. D. Program took the bar examinations, and except for years 1997 and 1998), ALS consistently achieved the highest passing percentage in the bar examinations, according to Villanueva.

ALS achieved a 12-year average of 87.40 percent, followed by San Beda College with 80.15 percent, and the UP College of Law with 76.47 percent, according to the Supreme Court's statistical data sheets from 1991 to 2002.

Rather than the topnotcher finish, the average passing percentage is considered the better indicator of gauging the quality of legal education of the various law schools in the country because it reflects the over-all quality of instruction and training given to the students of each batch, according to Villanueva.

A special testimonial dinner will be tendered by the Ateneo de Manila University president, Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., at the opening of the school year in the middle of June for the ALS debating team.

The Ateneo Law Alumni Association had already tendered a testimonial dinner for the ALS debating team at the Manila Golf Club. It was hosted by former Central Bank Governor Gabriel Singson.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

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Security forces have been on high alert amid fears that the Games, the first summer Olympics since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States, could be targeted by guerrillas.

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"We're fully in the loop with the Greek authorities who are keeping us informed... Obviously it's an incident which is not connected with an Olympic venue," IOC spokesperson Giselle Davies said.

She thought some National Olympic Committees had discussed safety concerns in the wake of the Athens attacks, but that no formal approaches had been made by them to the IOC. *Reuters*

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Keeping such high troop levels in Iraq will further strain a military already stretched thin. All or part of nine of the Army's 10 divisions are in Iraq or Afghanistan. Some analysts and retired generals say the Pentagon has to either expand the military or reduce its worldwide commitments.

"I think we can handle the tempo," said Air Force Lt. Gen. Norton Schwartz, director of operations for the Pentagon's Joint Staff. "It is demanding, no question about it. But I haven't come to the conclusion that we need to grow the force yet."

The troops coming into Iraq will be more heavily armed than the forces they are replacing. They'll arrive with more tanks, armored personnel carriers and armored Humvees, said Schwartz and Army Lt. Gen. Richard Cody.

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The Japanese government, observing a holiday period, did not issue any statement. Norway, which has 150 engineers in Iraq, urged the United States to conduct an investigation.

"We haven't talked directly to the US government about this, but both the Americans and the British take the matter very seriously, and we assume that they will conduct a proper investigation," said Karsten Klepsvik, a spokesperson for the Norwegian foreign ministry.

European Commission spokesperson Diego Ojeda also called for an investigation.

"We are not sitting in judgment here. But clearly if violations did occur, the perpetrators must be punished," he said. *AP*

Thai court orders arrest of suspected mastermind

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"The warrant has been issued," a police officer in the southern province of Yala told reporters. The Yala district court issued the warrant, officials said.

Police searched Yusof's home at the school in Yala, but he was nowhere to be found and they suspected he had fled after the carnage, which analysts say looks like the resurgence of a Muslim separatist rebellion dormant since the 1980s.

During their interrogation of the two suspects, police said detainee Asae Wadeng had confessed to attacking a Yala army base on April 28, but said he had been egged on to do it by Yusof, who had indoctrinated him with separatist ideas.

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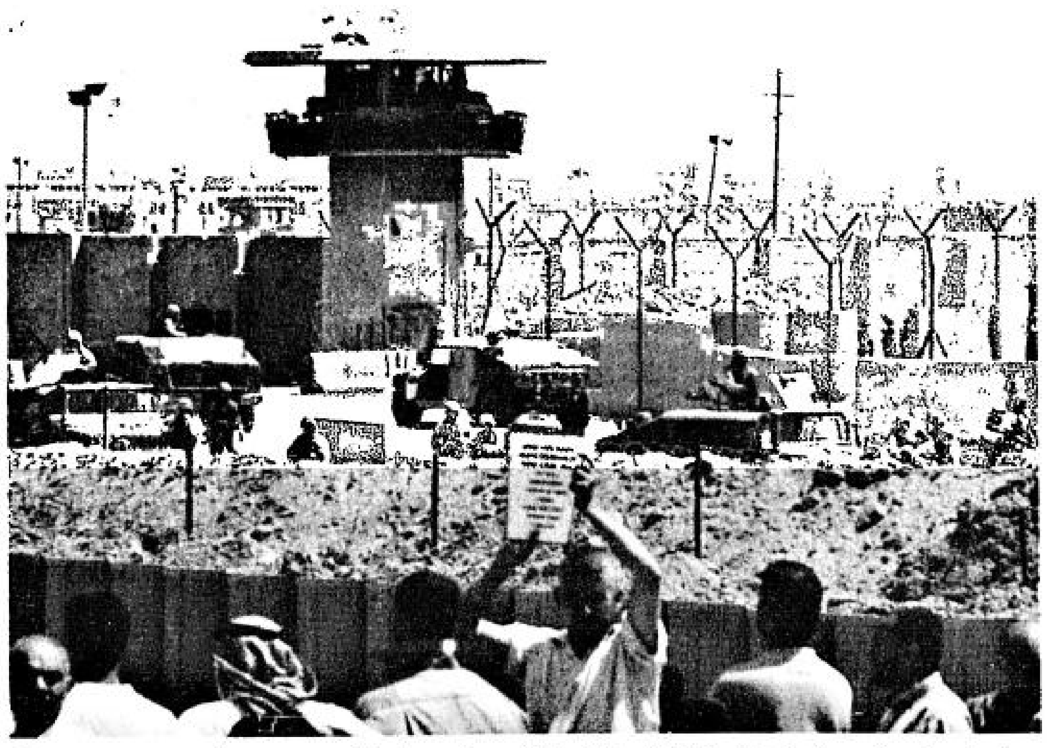
ABC



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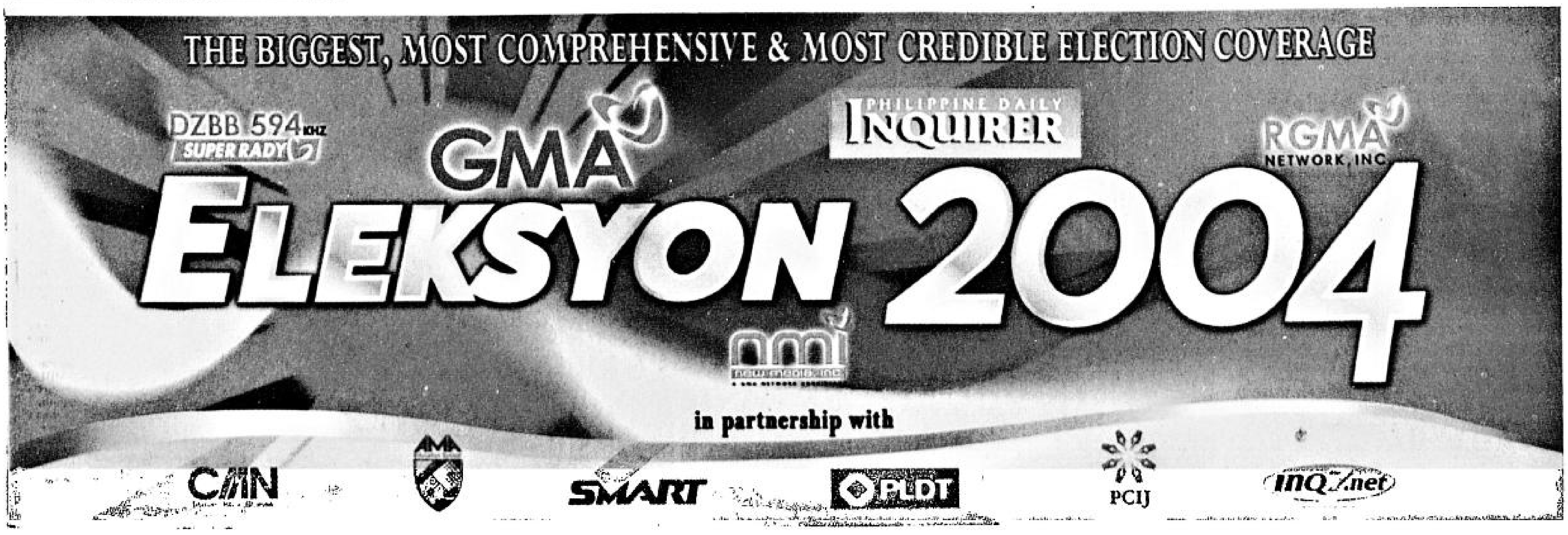

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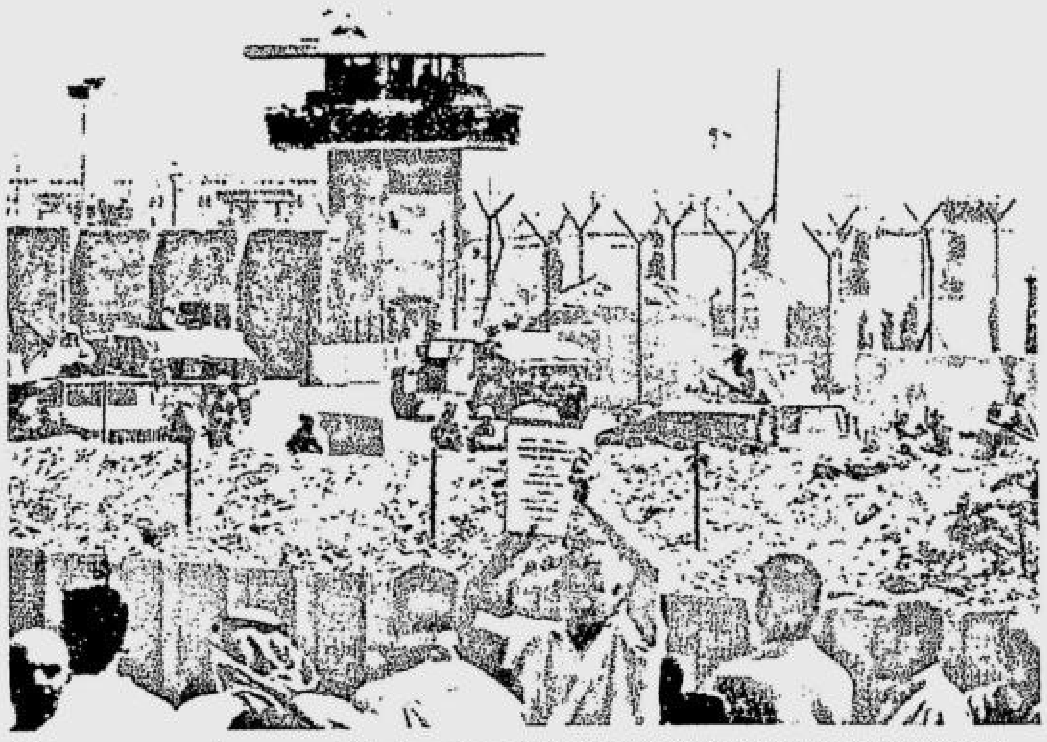

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Ex-US diplomats question Bush's support for Sharon

WASHINGTON—Sixty former US diplomats have signed a letter to President George W. Bush contending that his "unabashed support" for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is costing the United States credibility and friends.

The letter expresses deep concern over Bush's April 14 endorsement of Sharon's proposal to pull out of Gaza but keep some Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

"By closing the door to negotiations with Palestinians and the possibility of a Palestinian state, you have proved that the US is not an evenhanded peace partner," the letter said.

The number of diplomats who have signed the letter was disclosed by the office of Andrew I. Killgore, who was ambassador to Qatar from 1977-80. It was co-authored by Richard H. Curtiss, a former chief inspector of the US Information Agency.

Bush's support for Sharon, the former diplomats said, also has placed "US diplomats, civilians and military doing their jobs overseas in an untenable and even dangerous position."

Although the letter focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the letter also mentioned Iraq and it was discussed extensively at a news conference that the group held Tuesday.

"Maybe in this year, the disaster that is American intervention in Iraq will finally get through to people, that there is a connection, that the Iraq thing would not have gone so badly if we had been seen in the region as being genuinely interested in upholding the rights and dignity of the Palestinians as well as the Israelis," said Carleton Coon, a former ambassador to Nepal. *AP*

Suharto's former party wins over Megawati's in Indon polls

JAKARTA—President Megawati Sukarnoputri's party lost significant ground in parliamentary elections, threatening her chances for reelection in July's presidential contest, official election tallies showed on Wednesday.

Golkar, the party of Indonesia's former strongman president Suharto, topped the voting for parliament with 21.6 percent of the vote, down slightly from the 22.5 percent it won in the 1999 parliamentary election.

Megawati's Indonesia Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) came second, winning 18.5 percent, compared with the 33.7 percent it won in 1999.

Although Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, both parties are secular. The results, in line with partial counts released since the April 5 vote, point to a government that will continue to endorse economic reform and oppose violent militant Islamic groups.

However, implementing policy could be tough, analysts say.

"Golkar has the leading position and now must find partners, which won't be an easy task," Muhammad Budhyatna, a political analyst from the University of Indonesia, said.

"The structure of the parliament will be amorphous and I think they won't produce any significant progress."

The allocation of seats in the 550-member parliament was due to be announced later on Wednesday, but the vote tallies show no party will have anything close to a majority.

That means the stage is set for Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, to continue with a coalition government after a new president is elected.

In the race for president, both Megawati and Golkar's nominee, ex-military chief Wiranto, are lagging in opinion polls behind another former general, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

He is the candidate of the Democrat Party, which came in fifth with 7.5 percent, a respectable showing for a new party.

Indonesia votes for a president on July 5. All three main candidates have similar platforms promising economic reform and opposition to terrorism, as well as Islamic Sharia law.

Most Muslim-oriented parties did worse or no better than in 1999, except for the Prosperous Justice Party, which favored conservative Islamic policies but put more emphasis in the campaign on an anti-corruption and pro-economic growth stance.

It drew 7.3 percent of the vote from 1.4 percent in 1999.

If no presidential candidate wins a majority on July 5, a run-off will be held in September.

Not all analysts take it as a given that Yudhoyono, who partly won voter sympathy over perceived mistreatment by Megawati and her husband when he was a minister in her Cabinet, will win.

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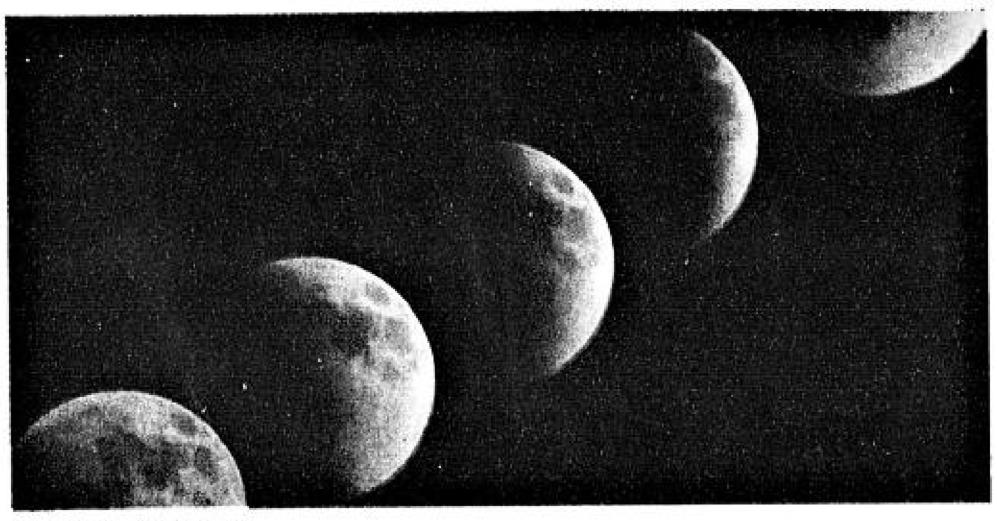

LUNAR ECLIPSE
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North Korea accepts US aid for blast victims

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He was the first senior North Korean official to confirm Pyongyang's decision.

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However, Han indirectly declined a US suggestion that it could send medical personnel to help treat victims of the blast. The Stalinist country has also refused to allow South Korean doctors and other specialists into the site. *AFP*

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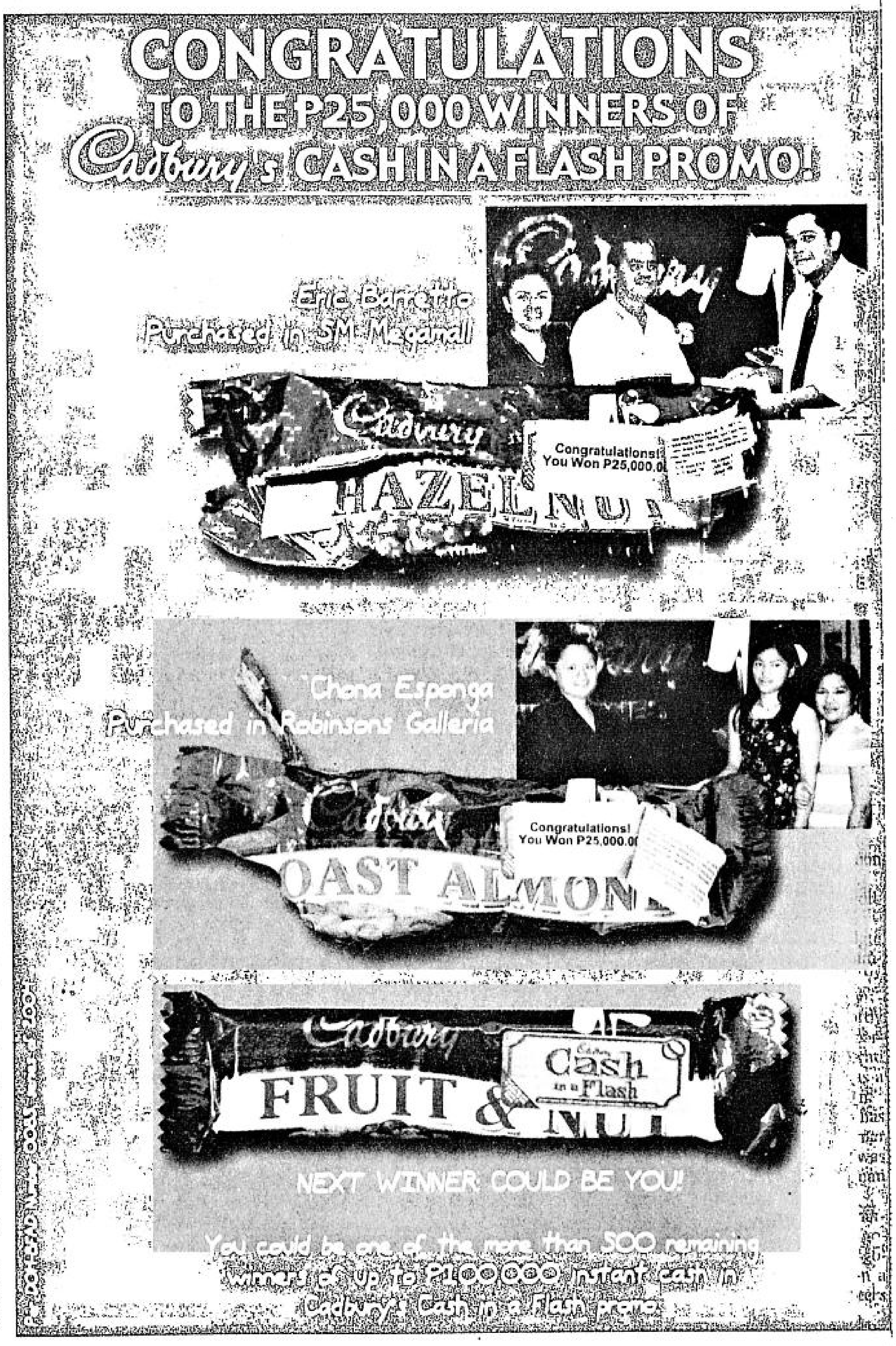

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Kailangan natin ng Kakampi sa Senado:

Senador RODOLFO G.

BIAZON

Napatunayan na natin sa mga nagdaang Kongreso ang tatag at puso ni Sen. Biazon. Nanindigan siya para sa mga batas na mag-aangat sa kalidad ng buhay ng mga mamamayan.

Sa sususunod na Kongreso, malinaw ang PLATAPORMA ni Sen. Biazon:

- **Kapayapaan sa bansa at pagsisiguro na una ang kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan.** Patuloy na pagreporma sa Hukbong Sandatahan ng Pilipinas (AFP) at Philippine National Police (PNP)
- **Maayos na pabahay ng mga mamamayan, laluna ng mga urban poor.** Maayos na patakaran para sa gamit ng lupa; pabahay para sa lahat ng mga Pilipino; pagpapatupad at pagpapalakas ng mga programa ng pamahalaan sa pabahay.
- **Pagpapalakas ng mga kooperatiba.** Pondo at pagpapalakas ng mga kooperatiba laluna sa sektor ng pagsasaka.
- **Seguridad sa mga Pinoy sa usapin ng globalisasyon.** Proteksyon ng ating agrikultura at industriya; safety nets para sa mga mamamayan sa usaping GATT-WTO.
- **Pangangalaga sa kapakanan ng mga kababaihan at pagsisiguro na kasama sila sa pagpapaunlad ng bansa.** Isa sa mga may akda ng mga bagong batas na "Anti-Abuse of Women and their Children" at ng "Anti-Trafficking in Persons." Muling gagawing prinsipal na panukala ang "Reproductive Health Care Act."
- **Pagbibigay pansin sa ugnayan ng walang habas na paglaki ng populasyon at kahirapan.** Gagawing prinsipal na panukala ang "Integrated Population and Development Act."

Malinaw ang rekord ni Sen. Biazon: Kakampi siya ng ordinaryong mamamayan, laluna ng kababaihan.

*Kaming mga nakalagda mula sa nakararaming sektor at indibidwal, kasama ng aming kasapian at pamilya, ay nagpapatunay nito. Senador Biazon – **may prinsipyo; may pananagutan; maaasahan.***

Mga Lumagda:

• Abanse Pinay! • AIDS Society of the Philippines • Aksyon Sambayanan (AKSA) Partylist • BSPO San Juan • BUMAKO • Center for Economic and Rural Development (CERD) • Coalition of Services for the Elderly (COSE) • Council of Christian Bishops of the Philippines (CCBP) • Democratic Socialist Women of the Phils. (DSWP) • Demographic Research and Development Foundation, Inc. (DRDF) • Family Planning Organization of the Philippines (FPOP) • Foundation for Adolescent Development (FAD) • Institute of Maternal and Child Health (IMCH) • Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF • IRDF)-Nueva Ecija • KASAMA-Bundok Makiling • Linangan ng Kababaihan (LIKHAAN) • Liga Manggagawa-NCR • Liga Manggagawa-South NCR • Liga Manggagawa-Cavite • Liga Manggagawa-Quezon City • Liga Manggagawa-Valenzuela • LAW Center, Inc. • MAGDIWANG • MAKALAYA • MUSFA-SMBL • NGOs for Fisheries Reform (NFR) • NATCCO • NUTRILINC • PhilNet-RDI • Pambansang Kaisahan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (PKMP) • PKMP-Pampanga • Phil. NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare (PNGOC) • Piglas Kababaihan • PILIPINA • Pinagkaisang Damdamin ng Magsasaka ng Pila, Laguna (PDMP) • Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation, Inc. Secretariat (PLCPD) • RCPD • Reproductive Rights Resource Group (3RG) - Philippines • Sagip Pasig Movement (SPM) • Samahan ng Magsasaka ng Bae, Laguna (SMBL), • Southern Tagalog Rural Assistance Program • Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) • United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) • Valenzuela Women's Action on GAD Inc. • WAND • Women's Health Care Foundation (WHCF) • Cooky Chua • Bayang Barrios • Noel Cabangon • Michael Robel ([illegible]) • Rey D. Abella (Bagong Dugo) • Excelsis Beld • Ron Dongeto • Rene Boncocan • Adi Saliva • Donald Dee • Dr. Alberto Romualdez • Dr. Ernesto Pernia • Dr. Jonathan Flavier • Elizabeth Angsioco • Roberto M. Ador • Dr. Junice Melgar • Atty. Rhodora [illegible] • Dr. Eden Divinagracia

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Senador RODOLFO G. BIAZON: Kakampi sa Senado.

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Ex-US diplomats question Bush's support for Sharon

WASHINGTON—Sixty former US diplomats have signed a letter to President George W. Bush contending that his "unabashed support" for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is costing the United States credibility and friends.

The letter expresses deep concern over Bush's April 14 endorsement of Sharon's proposal to pull out of Gaza but keep some Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

"By closing the door to negotiations with Palestinians and the possibility of a Palestinian state, you have proved that the US is not an evenhanded peace partner," the letter said.

The number of diplomats who have signed the letter was disclosed by the office of Andrew I. Killgore, who was ambassador to Qatar from 1977-80. It was co-authored by Richard H. Curtiss, a former chief inspector of the US Information Agency.

Bush's support for Sharon, the former diplomats said, also has placed "US diplomats, civilians and military doing their jobs overseas in an untenable and even dangerous position."

Although the letter focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the letter also mentioned Iraq and it was discussed extensively at a news conference that the group held Tuesday.

"Maybe in this year, the disaster that is American intervention in Iraq will finally get through to people, that there is a connection, that the Iraq thing would not have gone so badly if we had been seen in the region as being genuinely interested in upholding the rights and dignity of the Palestinians as well as the Israelis," said Carleton Coon, a former ambassador to Nepal. *AP*

Suharto's former party wins over Megawati's in Indon polls

JAKARTA—President Megawati Sukarnoputri's party lost significant ground in parliamentary elections, threatening her chances for reelection in July's presidential contest, official election tallies showed on Wednesday.

Golkar, the party of Indonesia's former strongman president Suharto, topped the voting for parliament with 21.6 percent of the vote, down slightly from the 22.5 percent it won in the 1999 parliamentary election.

Megawati's Indonesia Democratic Party-Struggle (PDI-P) came second, winning 18.5 percent, compared with the 33.7 percent it won in 1999.

Although Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation, both parties are secular. The results, in line with partial counts released since the April 5 vote, point to a government that will continue to endorse economic reform and oppose violent militant Islamic groups.

However, implementing policy could be tough, analysts say.

"Golkar has the leading position and now must find partners, which won't be an easy task," Muhammad Budhyatna, a political analyst from the University of Indonesia, said.

"The structure of the parliament will be amorphous and I think they won't produce any significant progress."

The allocation of seats in the 550-member parliament was due to be announced later on Wednesday, but the vote tallies show no party will have anything close to a majority.

That means the stage is set for Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, to continue with a coalition government after a new president is elected.

In the race for president, both Megawati and Golkar's nominee, ex-military chief Wiranto, are lagging in opinion polls behind another former general Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

He is the candidate of the Democrat Party, which came in fifth with 7.5 percent, a respectable showing for a new party.

Indonesia votes for a president on July 5. All three main candidates have similar platforms promising economic reform and opposition to terrorism, as well as Islamic Sharia law.

Most Muslim-oriented parties did worse or no better than in 1999, except for the Prosperous Justice Party, which favored conservative Islamic policies but put more emphasis in the campaign on an anti-corruption and pro-economic growth stance.

It drew 7.3 percent of the vote from 1.4 percent in 1999.

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Not all analysts take it as a given that Yudhoyono, who partly won voter sympathy over perceived mistreatment by Megawati and her husband when he was a minister in her Cabinet, will win.

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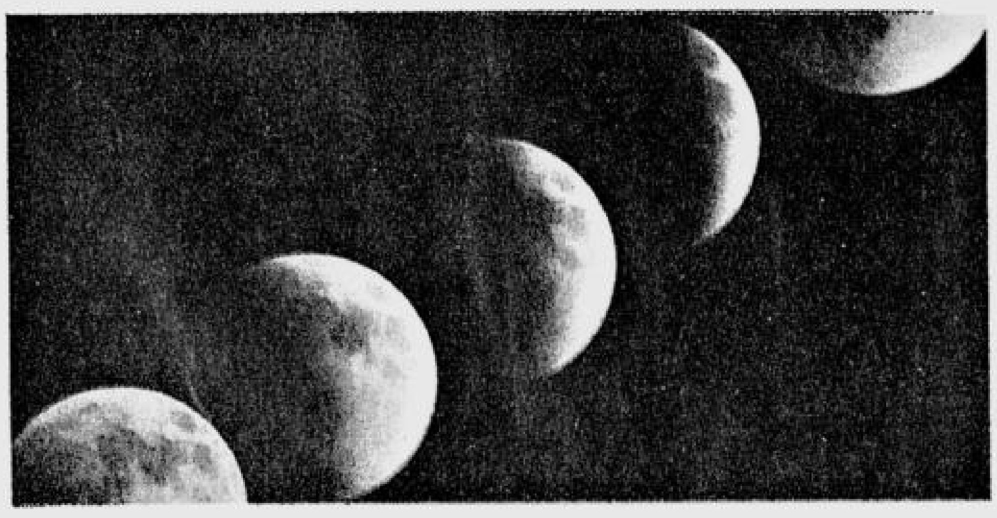

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[illegible] PORMA

• Kapayapaan sa bansa at pagsisiguro na una ang kaligtasan ng mga mamamayan. [illegible] at Philippine [illegible]

• Maayos na pabahay ng mga mamamayan, lalung-na ng mga urban poor [illegible] pagpapatupad [illegible] sa pabahay

• Pagpapalakas ng mga kooperatiba [illegible] sektor [illegible]

• Seguridad sa mga Pinoy sa usapin ng globalisasyon. [illegible] agrikultura [illegible] industriya [illegible]

para [illegible] mamamayan

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• Pagbibigay pansin sa ugnayan ng walang habas na paglaki ng populasyon at kahirapan [illegible] Integrated [illegible] Act

Malinaw ang relasyon [illegible] ordinaryong mamamayan

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OPINION

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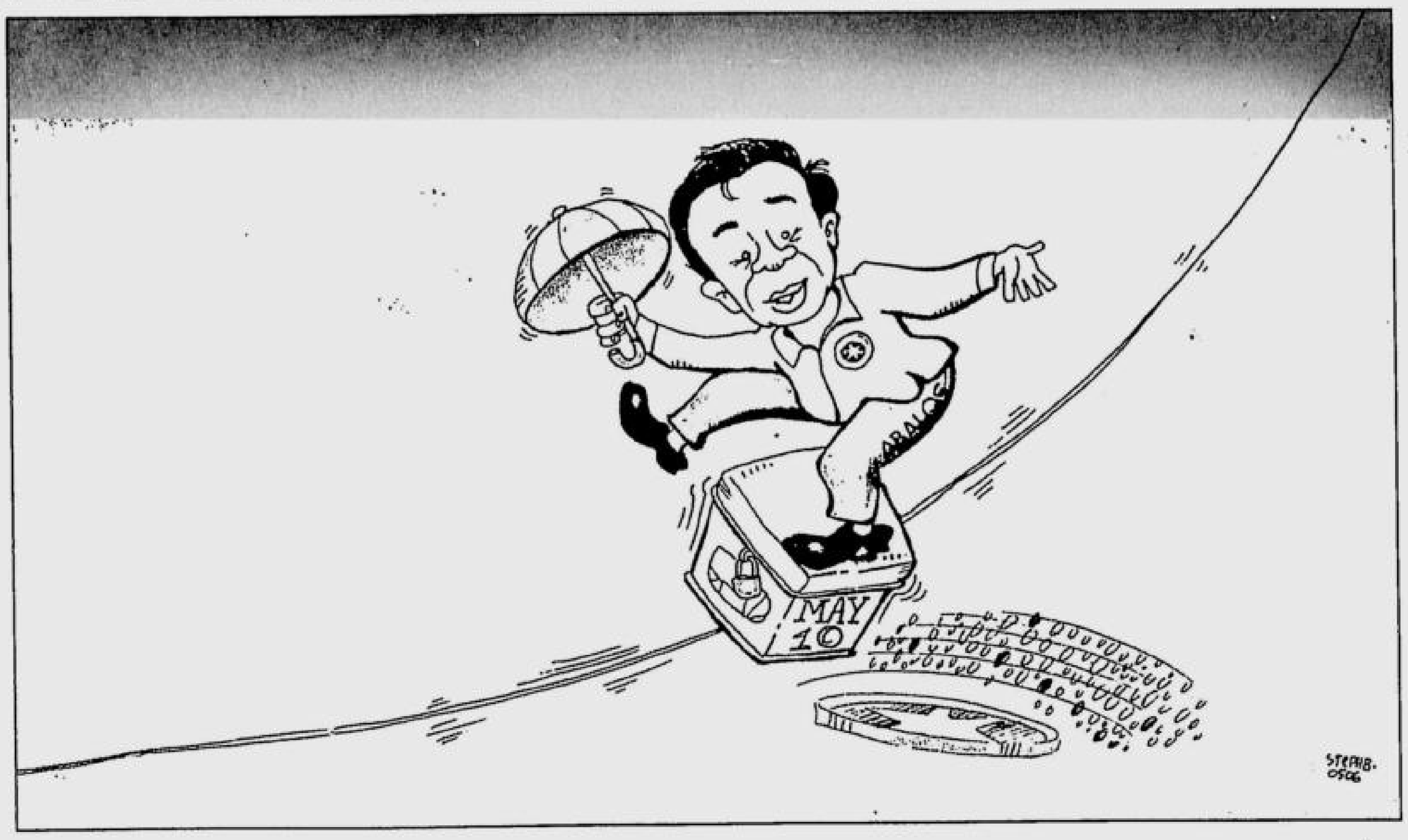

Kung fu

EDITORIALS

SO HERE'S American movie actor Steven Seagal announcing that he has always been a "big fan" of President Macapagal-Arroyo and that his family and friends have noted how "extreme caution" and "intelligent strategy" marked her handling of "difficult crises." It's uncertain how Seagal, on a visit to these tropical isles supposedly to check out a movie location, came to mouth that glowing tribute. Whether it was said outright in a kung fu burst of admiration or craftily solicited by the President's trusty operatives, it's one more endorsement for the candidate whom pundits have all but crowned winner, an endorsement no matter how indirect, and no matter that there was no photo op under any of Malacañang's gleaming chandeliers to go with it.

There is no doubt that endorsements are a tremendous thing in this country currently convulsed by election fever. That this is so indicates the extent to which tribalism continues to afflict the body politic, rendering it dependent on the say-so of perceived leaders and trend-setters, to speak nothing of ignorant, timid and, in effect, unable to think for itself. In the present context, celebrities have taken the place of tribal leaders telling their followers what to think. With the to-do over Seagal's description of the President as "a wonderful human being and a great strategist" (a tip-off, incidentally, by the Palace claque), the logic is that if such a one as Seagal, star of many a martial arts flick and by suggestion a man of power, thinks highly of the candidate, then voters should think so, too.

This is the logic behind Kris Aquino's giddy endorsement of the Lapid *pater et fils* (granting that the voting public would be so moved by someone who blows hot and cold and hot again as far as her steamy love life is concerned), of Judy Ann Santos' endorsement of Jamby Madrigal and of Nora Aunor's endorsement of Ms Macapagal. (This, by extension, could also be the logic behind the endorsement of Raul Roco by a number of performing artists, or of Eddie Villanueva by other members of show biz who belong to the same "faith-based group" as he. But then these latter groups do not have the same level of celebrity—and therefore impact—as Aunor et al., and may argue that they are but making declarations of faith.)

There is, of course, a deeper (and more troubling because deceitful) aspect to the endorsements of Santos and Aunor: an appropriation of identity by the endorsees, wherein Madrigal, a child of her class if ever there was one, "becomes" a veritable "Juday" down to the smile and the hair style in posters as well as in public appearances, and the President appears, in footage and in pictures, as though she were the "superstar" herself.

But Ms Macapagal has long employed the Aunor card, her equally astute husband having early on seen its value vis-à-vis *Ate* Guy's army of fans. And in today's Machiavellian culture, can there be any arguing against success (for example, Madrigal's truly startling come-from-behind survey ratings)?

Kick-boxing

THAT elections have become a matter of marketing kick-boxing ought to be clear from the way things are playing out and the campaign season is winding down. Even the prevailing analyses show that more than ever, power brokers and their mouthpieces view the electorate as a passive entity, indeed a commercial commodity, easier to trundle onto a bandwagon than to enlighten in terms of issues and candidates' qualifications and platforms of government.

True to form, candidates are desperately seeking the endorsement of the monolithic Iglesia ni Cristo and other faith-based groups as standard operating procedure, the conventional wisdom being that these groups vote as a bloc and are therefore crucial to any elective victory. The word on the street is that Malacañang is leaving no stone unturned in bagging the "anointment," and has unleashed its operatives to guarantee that the deed is done. (In that case, the critical question for the attentive observer to ask is this: What was the concession promised in exchange?)

The way it looks, this is what Philippine elections continue to be despite the occasional surge of street passion: a political game; bread and circus; an exercise, not in democracy, but in authoritarianism, wherein the order on whom to vote into office is issued from on high and writ in stone.

In short, we're back to where we started.

The 'Noah Principle'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

DOORS of voting booths will close mid-afternoon Monday. Junking painted smiles, some candidates will revert to smirks. That's also when the "Noah Principle" kicks in.

"No more awards for predicting rain," an Asian Development Bank annual report quotes the principle. "Prizes will go only to those who build the ark."

From Tuesday onwards, the worthwhile trophies this battered country should give are for those who "build the ark": the men and women who grapple with complex problems left to fester by an overdose of show-biz campaign tranquilizers.

"*Ang hanap ni Bathala ay di salita kundi gawa,*" the Filipino axiom says. What God seeks are deeds, not words.

Decisive reforms are urgently needed by a nation, shoved to the brink by long postponed decisions, the investment bank Lehman Brothers cautions.

Lehman's Damocles Financial Crisis Index is an early warning system of 10 indicators that tracks financial risks. "At 50... the Philippines' score was the poorest among Asian countries—compared to an average score of 17 among emerging markets in Asia."

A Noah-like flood won't swamp us day after tomorrow, unless sore election losers insist they were gypped. But "in the year ahead the Philippine score is likely to deteriorate," the bank says.

That's crunch time. That year will also show if, finally, neglected issues—from the runaway budget deficit, to simmering rebellion, shoddy education and chronic hunger—are being met head-on.

And there's the coming "Big Bang." Whoever emerges as president, and other winners, after Monday, must defuse a "debt problem that could explode within a year."

That warning comes from UP professor Leonor Briones, who has impeccable bona fides. Briones used to be the national treasurer. And she leads the Freedom from Debt Coalition.

Department of Budget and Management figures show total public sector debt now tops P5.16 trillion, an increase of P750 billion in just one year. When IOUs from local governments and corporations are tallied, the bill is a "stratospheric" P244.6 billion.

No government can run forever on red ink. Congress can't allocate more for its pork barrel while dodging taxes. Collection of due levies must catch up with the bills. Malacañang's election spending will come home to roost. "*No adda utang adda met bayadan,*" frugal Ilocanos mutter. There's no debt that won't be paid.

But local IOUs are only part of the forthcoming "Big Bang." "Hardly any debate has been held on the management of our foreign debt," Inquirer's Randy David points out.

Foreign IOUs now exceed $57.4 billion. It straps a debt burden of P44,548 on every Filipino—peanuts when compared to the P60,654 every Cebu City resident bears due to Mayor Tomas Osmeña's devaluation-bloated yen loans.

With static tax rates, he collected P437.1 million in 2002, Osmeña's full-page ads proclaim. Indeed, that's far better than opponent Alvin Garcia's P351.4 million in 2000. What is slipped under the rug is that P375.4 million in this year's budget is snapped up by debt interest repayments. That will relentlessly rise well beyond 2015.

"Successors would have the gargantuan task of rebuilding the country out of the ashes of flawed fiscal policies," Briones points out. "*No basta decir adios,*" echoes Sun.Star Cebu. It's not enough to say goodbye.

Disdain for accountability will hobble efforts by those elected Monday to hew by the "Noah Principle," whether dealing with ecological decay or overdue Mindanao development. A Filipino in Tawi-Tawi has a life expectancy of only 52 years—comparable to that of Namibians in tropical Africa. It is a generation shorter than a Cebuano's 72.

"A man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions," the Master from Galilee taught. But this society lives as if "net worth equals self worth."

This is "pecuniary decency" where cash makes right. Doors open depending on checkbook balances, specially from numbered accounts. Car models and serial concubines dictate the first places at table. Even religious bloc command votes are calibrated to survey ranking, not integrity.

"When you have money," the Chinese say, "even the spirits will turn the mills for you." But you'd also have to rewrite dictionaries.

Martial law dictatorship, Imelda insists, is democracy. A levy is not a tax, those who stole coconut farmers blind insist. A corrupt "Brat Pack" indicts an exemplary Chief Justice.

Right here is wrong. Juan Ponce Enrile apologizes for an oppressed people flushing out a corrupt dictator. Communists claim it is nationalism to extort through permits-to-campaign. Bayan Muna and comrades silently cheer them on.

"The distinction between what are luxuries and necessities is blurring," says the UN's Human Development Report. Pork barrel is a must. Malnutrition, which results in 32 underweight kids out of every 100, is addressed "when funds become available."

In a shabby charity ward, the wife and I came across one such victim: an almost totally-blind girl, singing softly a lullaby to herself. She was all of 5—too young to sing of "old unhappy things and battles long ago."

Her remaining eye was likely to go the way of the blind one, the emaciated mother explained. Prompt treatment would have saved her sight. But they never could scrape up enough for the jeepney fare and a little extra to get her to the hospital.

"There is enough for man's needs," Gandhi once observed, "but never enough for his greed." Take it from the Mahatma: we have enough to build that ark.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Literature and journalism

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(I WANTED to comment on Nick Joaquin's 1996 Magsaysay Award speech, which we reprinted over the weekend, which talked about literature and journalism, two worlds Nick lived in. But I remembered having commented on it when it first appeared. I retrieved the piece, or pieces [it was two columns] and was delighted to find I still agreed with much of what I said then. I have compressed the two columns into one.)

Nick Joaquin's speech offers three lessons in humility:

The first has to do with the apparent contradiction between self-expression and communication. There is none.

It should help, says Joaquin, that "creative writers" become journalists too.

I remember how we used to think of journalism and literature in these terms: Journalism dealt with the outer world, creative writing dealt with the inner one. Journalism looked at the world objectively, creative writing looked at the world subjectively. Journalism demanded lack of emotion, creative writing demanded passion. Journalism demanded hustle, creative writing demanded sensitivity. Journalism reached out to a mass public, creative writing held out to a select few. Journalism was knowing what to say, creative writing was knowing how to say.

I suspect a lot of people, not least journalists and "creative writers," still think of those professions in that way. But you grow older and practice both crafts, and you realize how it's really an artificial division of labor. One that only makes the "creative writer" narcissistic. I don't know why the term "creative writer" shouldn't be scrapped altogether. It patently discriminates, and little encourages humility or a sense of realism among poets, fictionists and playwrights. Its implication, of course, is that other forms of writing are uncreative, or sheer drudgery. "Creative writers" create beauty, other writers create manuals. "Creative writers" create art, other writers create havoc.

It's a fallacy, and leads to a dead end. I remember how many of the aspiring poets in my time who were so absorbed in self-expression merely ended up writing poems about writing, or about poetry. As a friend pointed out, it was the dragon feeding on its own tail. Or as a more cynical friend pointed out, writing obscurely was just a good excuse to write badly. You could always blame the reader's lack of depth for your incomprehensibleness.

Patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels, self-expression is the last refuge of the inarticulate.

Nick Joaquin's second lesson in humility has to do with good and bad subjects. There are none.

"(T)here are no hack-writing jobs, there are only hack writers. Journalism trained me never, never to feel superior to whatever I was reporting, and always, always to respect an assignment, whether it was a basketball game, or a political campaign, or a fashion show, or a murder case, or a movie-star interview."

Truly, there are no "*bakya*" topics, there are only "*bakya*" writers. More than merely a good journalistic—or literary—practice, taking a movie-star interview as deathly seriously as a political campaign is a good attitude toward life. The world is full of wonders. All you have to do, writer or gravedigger, scholar or ditchmaker, is have the eyes to see it.

But it's not just literature that encourages the view that some subjects are loftier than others, journalism does too. The whole division of "news" into "hard news" and "soft news," a division physically carved out in the newsroom in News and Features, opens the door to such judgments. The very words "hard" and "soft" invite them, the first suggesting intellectual rigor and the second suggesting emotional mush. "Hard news" is the political and economic stories, "soft news" is the "human interest" and entertainment ones.

Presumably, the "proper" subjects for "serious journalists" are the President, the members of Congress and corporate CEOs. The "serious" is in quotation marks because that is only how the "serious journalists" think of themselves. That is not what they are. What they are is solemn. There is a difference. Solemn journalists take themselves seriously, serious journalists take the world seriously.

Nick Joaquin offers a third lesson in humility. That is to stand in awe before the wonders of writing.

Indeed, beyond it, to the wonders of life itself. Writing is too awesome to confine to the boundaries of journalism and literature, life is too magical to pare down to news and "human interest."

At the very least, it is an attitude that must translate into respect for craft. You respect your craft, you do not ward off new ideas and techniques like unwanted intrusions, you invite them in like new friends. You keep extending the limits of the possible. You are a "creative writer," you may no longer scorn the world of journalism. You are a journalist, you may no longer scorn the world of literature.

The barriers between the two have greatly melted, like polar caps, over the years. Norman Mailer himself, who once vowed never to do a Truman Capote, which was to fictionalize reportage, turned back on his word and wrote the dazzling "The Executioner's Song." It takes as much breadth of imagination to write good reportage as to write good fiction. To a good journalist, life must look so terribly strange. To a good fictionist, fantasy must look so terribly familiar.

You have an awesome respect for your audience, you have an awesome respect for your subject and you have an awesome respect for your craft, you will have an awesome respect for yourself. You respect yourself, you won't indulge in silly subterfuges. You don't jerk the audience around, you won't jerk yourself around.

You'll just tell it like it is. Or like Nick Joaquin—with verse in mouth and beer in hand.

Left-wing groups break up

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I HAVE known Rep. Loretta Ann P. Rosales from our UP days as a straight shooter. In a press conference earlier this week, the feisty Akbayan representative was very angry about waking up to see "malicious" posters pasted on her gate and across the street, stating, "Akbayan, Partido ng AFP" and "Akbayan at Etta Yumaman." Rosales said this "last bit of slander" was a "last act of desperation of the New People's Army and its political arm, the Communist Party" to destroy Akbayan ever since it took a strong position against the collection of permit-to-campaign (PTC) fees and armed interference in the coming elections.

It will be recalled that Akbayan recently startled political pundits when it sponsored a bill outlawing the collection of PTC fees. More than 50 House members have signed up as co-sponsors of the bill.

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Rosales said that since then the NPA has stepped up its attacks against Akbayan, with Gregorio Rosal accusing it of collaborating with the AFP in alleged killings of members of left-wing organizations, a charge she denies vehemently. Rosales expressed fear that Rosal's accusations against Akbayan, which is a "legitimate political party independent of any armed group, unlike other purportedly autonomous party-list organizations that the NPA sees fit to endorse," could actually be intended to lay the groundwork for "impending attacks" that the "CPP triad" seems determined to undertake against her group. She stressed, however, that Akbayan has been consistent in denouncing all kinds of human rights violations, be it from the left or the right, over the past six years, even as she appealed to the "NPA's sense of justice and fair play."

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This latest *banatan* between Akbayan and the NPA may signal the final break between the two militant political groups, led by Akbayan on the one hand, and the bloc led by Bayan Muna. Akbayan seems to have moved toward the center, while Bayan Muna and its affiliates remain fuzzy in their stand vis-à-vis the NPA's activities. In taking the high moral ground on the PTC issue, however, Akbayan has made Bayan Muna quite defensive over its failure to condemn this insidious practice. Rosales put it aptly when she stressed that "no one group has a franchise on activism and political struggle" and that "only with respect, tolerance and pluralism" shall we attain our desire for genuine and enduring social transformation.

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Last Monday evening, our editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc hosted a "pre-election" party for media colleagues at her Valle Verde home, and over wine (courtesy of President Macapagal-Arroyo), a terrific salad and home-cooked chicken *inasal*, we exchanged the latest views with political analyst Tony Gatmaitan, CNN correspondent Maria Ressa, Raul Roco's law partner Lorna Patajo Kapunan, and GMA image-maker Lupita Aquino Kashiwahara. Lorna was peppered with queries on Roco's health while Lupita shared insights on GMA with the GMA-partisan media. Later presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson showed up looking nicely tanned and trim. While it was unclear whether he was invited by our hostess or he invited himself, he gamely answered all questions thrown to him, but not before teasing INQUIRER columnist Victor Agustin that he should have brought along retired ad man Greg Alcantara at whom Vic had taken potshots.

* * *

Lacson said he had given up all hope for unity with FPJ as neither of them wished to slide down to the vice-presidency. Should he fail to win the presidency, he said, he would return to finish his Senate term and then fade away. He stressed that after this electoral exercise he had no intention of joining politics anymore. He sounded quite disgusted with the whole thing.

Lacson was asked about the cases filed against him. I observed that three former senators who are now running as candidates—Ernesto Maceda, Roco and Orlando Mercado—headed the three committees that investigated the Kuratong Baleleng case, and they had recommended his indictment and that of his men. Lacson ascribed it rather fuzzily to "politics."

There was a funny moment when Roco's chief supporter, Kapunan, assured Lacson she was there to protect him against the vicious media women.

Still later, former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and wife Kim arrived, and Letty remarked that the party was now "more balanced," since the Camachos are said to be backing Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

All in all it was truly a fun evening.

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Former Senate President Jovito Salonga endorsed only three candidates this election, and considering his still formidable following, that carries a lot of weight. He has endorsed young corporate lawyer Roman T. Romulo, son of Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo, for Congress to represent the lone district of Pasig. Hopefully, the Pasig voters will help keep the proud Romulo tradition in public service.

Salonga is also batting for former SEC chair and Estrada impeachment trial witness Perfecto Yasay, who is running under Alyansa for the Senate. I agree with him that Yasay will be an asset in that chamber.

Salonga also endorsed independent senatorial candidate Heherson Alvarez, whose role in the struggle against the Marcos dictatorship he recalled. But I think the most significant part of his endorsement was his stressing that Alvarez's "singular virtue" is his "consistency," be it in opposing the dictatorship or violations of basic human rights or in his political actions. Salonga said that Alvarez, who chose to run as an independent instead of joining the opposition when he was left out of K-4, is "not a political turncoat." In this age of the *balimbing*, that indeed is a rare virtue.

The vote of the poor (2)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

LAST week, we shared portions of the findings of the research done by the Ateneo University's Institute for Philippine Culture (IPC) on how the poor view elections and choose their candidates.

The IPC's "The Vote of the Poor: The Values and Pragmatics of Elections" tries to answer the questions: Do the poor produce a "dumb *masa*" vote? What do the poor think of elections? How do they make their choices? How much influence do the media exert on them? What to them are the traits of a true leader?

The IPC used focused group discussions (FGDs) as a tool to get to the raw sentiments and perceptions of the subjects.

Here's more:

The most important sources of influence in the choice of candidates are: media, family, church, political parties, one's own judgment (*sarili lang/walang nakakaimpluwensiya*) and surveys. (In dozens of conferences and forums on all sorts of issues that I've attended or covered here and abroad this past decade, the media have always been pointed to as one of the most influential factors in shaping individuals and society. Are schools, churches and families sleeping on the job?)

According to the IPC, the mass media appear to be a crucial bridge between the poor's leadership ideals and the process of choosing candidates. Serious mass media practitioners must consider ways by which their profession can be more effective in playing this all-important role.

To arrive at an informed choice, the IPC said, the participants recognize the media as playing a most crucial role. Only among rural participants do the media not figure as the most important source of influence. The family and the church are on top of their list.

While the participants get information from newspapers, radio and TV, the youth also rely on text messages and the Internet. The IPC pointed out that across all groups, *tsismis* (gossip or small talk) figure as a source of information. Discussions (*pakikisalamuha*) with other people are also deemed important. Urbanites also look to ads, leaflets, campaign streamers to get to know the candidates.

But body language is important too. And here the electronic media have an edge over print. The poor analyze the images projected by candidates via radio or TV to gauge character (*ugali*). How do the candidates speak and comport themselves?

Rural women look at the candidates' manner of speaking. Do they "speak with respect"? Males also observe the manner of speaking and the face, how the candidates stand or walk and deal with people. Nothing beats a face-to-face encounter. Urbanites observe these aspects, too, plus the candidates' personal appearance.

Here are some quotes from the FGDs: *Sa pananalita malalaman mo kung mabait o magaling. Sa reaksyon niya sa mga tao habang nangangampanya.* Physical appearance is a good source for determining behavior.

The youth say they could tell a person's character by their manner of speaking and responding to questions during a debate. They also study the temper of the candidate. As one young FGD participant said: "They say liars have unstable eye movements."

Despite media's high ranking, participants still consider the information they get from them inadequate, particularly in the case of those running for national positions. TV ads are considered unreliable as there is no way to check out the claims.

Election time is a time of confusion—*nakakalito*. Too many candidates, too many positions to fill. And the information about candidates are not necessarily to be trusted. *Maraming paninira ang lumalabas sa mga kandidato, hindi mo alam kung ano ang totoo.*

The conduct of elections (whether to be computerized or not, and the validation of registration) has added to the confusion.

As to vote buying and selling, there seems to be a sense that the public ultimately loses if this practice goes on. *Hindi tama na mamigay, kasi kapag nanalo, babawiin din ito, baka mas malaki pa. Dai, magkakaigwa nin korapto. Mali, kasi parang binibili ang pagkatao mo.*

While a handful will never accept money, most participants say they will accept but still vote for those they like as long as there is no way their votes could be checked.

The IPC concluded that, as suggested by the views and opinions expressed by the participants of the study, it is clear that the poor possess a dignified, defensible and rational idea about good leadership. However, the study said, there appears to be a mismatch between the ideals of leadership, on one hand, and elections as the mechanism for choosing elected leaders, on the other.

Here is an important lesson that needs to be recognized. If the electoral process is fair and the broader political system is reformed, the poor, despite their poverty, can make good choices. But, as it is, the IPC study pointed out, they can only make good choices based on a flawed system. For our political problems, the voting poor (much used and abused) are not to blame.

I say, blame the miseducated and greedy elite, the unpoor who are in control.

* * *

My grudging vote. Eight out of 10 people I have asked have not made up their minds on whom to vote for on Monday. Or are they just shy about their choices? Grudgingly, I vote on Monday for candidates I hardly care about. But vote I will, hoping my choice for president will grow bigger ears and a bigger heart for the extremely needy, and grow in wisdom and strength in order to right the wrong and be able to pull this country out of the shadows. We must now all pull together or perish.

Bring a list to the polling place. For the senatorial and council slates, list names in alphabetical order to make tallying easy.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Departures

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IT was only after my father passed away that I really got to know my mother's side of the family. No one was warmer and more welcoming than my mother's brother, Luis. By profession, he was a banker; by temperament, he was a connoisseur; he was that rare kind of character, a person with personality in spades.

The holidays for him were exhausting, beginning months ahead with the careful selection and purchase of ingredients for his famous (and coveted) fruitcakes. I remember mentioning to him the theory, current among people my age who have had to endure too many inferior lumps of dough passed off as holiday edibles, that there was only one fruitcake in the world, passed on from one unwilling home to another. He arched his eyebrow and said, with mock hauteur, "People would kill for one of mine!" And he was right.

He was fastidious, too, about the Christmas ham, making his way to Quiapo for a particular type and engaging in near-brawls with vendors who would try to sell him pre-sliced pieces. Food was a matter not to be taken lightly. Once, faced for the first time with a Christmas turkey (the culinary department of another of my mother's brothers), I made the mistake of asking for cranberry sauce. My uncle Luis paused, and then, very slowly (you'd have to have seen it to believe how it's possible), rolled his eyes. Heresy! It was, it turns out, a turkey prepared in the Spanish style, and thus began a chorus of indignation.

"How American!" one uncle rumbled. And both he and my uncle Luis began to bewail my generation whose sins, it seems, includes an addiction to sweet flavorings to what should be savory foods. One of the mortal sins being that abomination: sweet spaghetti.

Suitably chastened, I would, from time to time, pick my uncle Luis' brains on food cooked and consumed in the grand manner. Talking to him was always an education in the culture and cuisine of our Hispanic past. One year he informed me, with a twinkle in his eye, that he was transcribing his mother's treasure trove of recipes, which dated back to the 19th century. The recipes, he confided, were the family recipes of Manila's old families, "many of which the descendants of those families don't even know anymore," he explained with mixed indignation and sadness.

"Then, Tito Louie, you must publish them," I'd exhort him.

"Never!" he'd reply.

"But why not?"

"Why not? *Ay, naku*, I don't want the whole world cooking those recipes."

"It's not like anyone my age can cook them," I'd plead, "but they'd be gorgeous to read and think of the history that would be lost!"

He'd smile, and with a naughty expression reply firmly, "No, *hijo*. Never!" He'd pause, and with an even bigger smile, ask, "You know what I'll do with them?"

"No, Tito. What?"

"I'll be buried with them!" And he'd laugh.

Sometimes, when I'd say hello, he'd tease me: "You know those recipes, *hijo*? I finally transcribed them on the computer. But I'll be buried with them." And he'd laugh as I'd try to convince him to share them with posterity.

He was a person of charming habits. New Year's Eve was a ritual only a retired banker could indulge in. He would get brand-new P50 bills, lay them out on his bed, and roll in them: "*Pero hijo*, for good luck of course!" he would explain while we giggled.

He never married, but lived comfortably in the bosom of his family, taking time off to travel and do the things retired people do, from fussing over family gatherings to fretting over the problems of his friends. Some years back, one of his closest friends passed away and he took care of the friend's affairs with thoroughness and great concern. This was the other side of him, part of the heritage he shared with his brothers and sisters: a strict and demanding professionalism, a desire to be tidy in all things, for it showed an adherence to that preeminent virtue: consideration for others.

The last time I got to talk to him, on the eve of my mother's birthday, he was tired. He'd spent nine hours making pastry from scratch. He was exhausted, but proud of his home-made *ensaymada*. Early the next morning, he had a heart attack. This morning (Wednesday), his heart finally gave out.

Rest in peace, Luis Orense Casas, 1938-2004. Tito Louie, you were a maraschino cherry in a vanilla world.

* * *

Whether you're a fresh voter all set to cast your ballot for the first time, or a veteran citizen who has participated in every election since 1946, or even—shame on you all, and there are many of you!—one of those ophthalmologists scheduled to have a Boracay convention, or a son or daughter of the rich who prefers to idle on the beach on election day, set aside some time Friday night to watch a documentary. "Papogi: The Imaging of Philippine Presidents" airs tomorrow, Friday, at 9 p.m., on ABS-CBN. It's by the good folks at the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, hosted by director Joey Reyes, and promises to be an interesting and fun experience. Not, by any means, your typical boring or too serious documentary.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

'Pulitiko'

YOUNG BLOOD

Reinir C. Padua

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

WHEN I was in high school, I ran twice in the Student Council elections. The first time, I came in second. The second time, I ended last.

I wondered how it could have happened since a lot of students in my high school knew me. Maybe I was popular but infamous?

But then I always knew I could never be a *pulitiko*. However, there was some pressure for me to have a little taste of school politics. But as some people say, you can never be a politician unless you were born as one.

You can never be a politician unless you have the characteristics of the many familiar personalities now asking for our votes in the coming elections. To be a successful *pulitiko*, you must be like:

- Mr. Credit-grabber. He loves to take credit for everything. He attaches his name to such self-serving statements as "*Mula sa puso ni...* ", "*Isang lingkod bayan mula kay...*" or anything that screams to everyone, "*Hoy, ako ang nagpagawa nito.*"

But wait, did the money spent for the projects come from his own pocket? I think it's the people's money. So we do not owe him for getting such projects done. After all, it's his job. But it would be more accurate for him to make it known that the projects are "*Mula sa pondo ng bayan.*"

- Ms Hallmark. She greets you for just about any occasion you can think of. But when you take a closer look at the banners and posters she ordered to be put up, you will notice that the part which says "*Isang pagbati mula kay* (her name)" is a lot bigger than the actual greeting. And why the sudden urge to greet everyone? I mean, we didn't get such greetings last year. Besides, it's only fair to ask, "Close *ba kami*?" With the elections approaching, we have read greetings like "Merry Christmas!", "Happy New Year!", "Happy Valentine's Day!" even "Happy Condolence." Which brings us to the third type of *pulitiko*.

- Mr. Party Animal. He looks upon every social event as an opportunity to promote himself. He attends any gathering, from business and high-society functions to the *inuman sa kanto* with *jologs*. And on the very rare occasion when he can't make it, he sends a representative to extend his greetings. If not, he can always put up a streamer saying, "Congratulations! Batch..."

Others can be a bit more subtle, like those who send tents to wakes and similar occasions, of course with their names written on them to remind everyone how thoughtful and caring they are.

- Mr. Political Heir. Sometimes the message can be quite confusing. For instance, a neophyte in politics tried to sell himself to voters by boasting that he was the scion of a much-revered political figure. His campaign materials practically declared that greatness ran in the family. The funny thing was that only the family seemed to think that the patriarch was a good leader. The worst part was that many voters fell for it and the son got elected. He did nothing to deserve their trust after that.

- Mr. Artista. He is a celebrity. I don't know if he is trying to launch a second career because his name is no longer so hot in the world of entertainment. Or maybe he thinks that popularity is all he needs to govern a nation.

Maybe he is right. But he should not get hurt when his qualifications for high office are questioned. He may have the best of intentions, but more often than not, these are not enough. Still I am afraid that I might wake up one day to find the country being run by clowns, whose closest advisers are variety-show hosts and whose anthem is the "Spageti Song."

- Mr. Pulitiko-Turned-Artista. This one is trying his very best to remain in power. With the entire country going wild over celebrities, why can he not be like these entertainment idols? He can do this by dropping some lines from some blockbuster movies. Or he can dance, sing and do whatever *artistas* do on stage to get elected. The only problem is, he may not be as pleasant to the eyes and to the ears as the people he is trying to mimic. But that does not prevent him from putting up a billboard where he is shown in his most cinematic or dramatic pose. It tells the voters, "I'm coming soon."

Others however are content to just be seen where the celebrities are. This includes having photos taken with them and gate-crashing the concerts of teen pop idols, never mind the boos from the crowd.

- Mr. and Ms Forgetful. The politicians in this category quickly forget what they said or promised. I don't know if they suffer from selective amnesia or something.

They may come in different forms. One is the reelectionist who reminds everyone how hard she worked during her term. But when we recall what she said the first time she ran, we know that she fulfilled none of the promises she had made.

Then there are the candidates running in the same ticket, pretending to be unmindful that they were bitter enemies once. They seem to have forgotten that they once insulted each other.

And then, of course, there is the public official who had promised that she would not run, only to take it back a few months later. And the list goes on.

Still I would like to believe that not all politicians, or public officials for that matter, are bad. I would like to believe that some candidates have clean intentions in running, that they have the proper credentials and experience that would enable them to put such intentions into practice.

Our problem is how to find them. But we should try because having the right leaders is about our only hope of having a better Philippines. Maybe there really are some candidates who have what it takes to render honest and efficient service to the whole nation.

Reinir C. Padua, 18, is a junior at the University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication.

THEY SAID

Market test

"In the market, they will test you. It's a matter of who blinks first."

—National treasurer Mina Figueroa on the decision to reject high bids for treasury bills and bonds to emphasize that government is not desperate for cash

A person for others

"With a little bit of will and a little bit of imagination, you can turn this crisis into your patriotic moment—and truly become a person for others."

—John Gokongwei Jr., in a speech delivered before the 2004 graduating class of the Ateneo de Manila University

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Left-wing groups break up

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YOUNG BLOOD

Reinir C. Padua

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below. [illegible]

WHEN I was in high school I ran twice in the Student Council elections. The first time I came in second. The second time, I ended la[illegible]

I wondered how it could have happened since a lot of students in my high school knew me. Maybe I was popular be[illegible]

But the [illegible] ould [illegible] be a *pulitiko*. How [illegible] there [illegible] pressure [illegible] have a little ta[illegible] of school politics. But [illegible] the people [illegible] you can never [illegible] politician unle[illegible] were born as one.

You can never [illegible] politician un[illegible] have the cha[illegible] tic[illegible] of the many [illegible] miliar pe[illegible] onalit[illegible] now asking for our votes in the coming elections. [illegible] to be a [illegible] successful *pulitiko*, you must be like:

- Mr. Credit grabber. He loves to take credit for every thing. He [illegible] his name to such self serving statements as "Mul[illegible] a p[illegible]" "*Isang lingkod bayan mula kay* [illegible]" anythin[illegible] that [illegible] "*Hoy, ako ang nagpagaw[illegible]*"

[illegible] the money spent [illegible] the projects come from [illegible] the p[illegible]'s money. So we do [illegible] done. After all, it's [illegible] him to make it known th[illegible] *bayan*."

- [illegible] for just about any[illegible] whe[illegible] you take a closer look a[illegible] order[illegible] to be put up, you will [illegible] "*Isang pagbati mula kay*" their name [illegible] ctual greeting. And why the sudden [illegible] I mean, we didn't get such greeting [illegible] only fair to ask, "[illegible]se *ba kami*?" With [illegible] ap[illegible]ching, we have [illegible] greetings like "Mer[illegible] N[illegible] ar!" "Happy Valentine[illegible]" Whi[illegible] brings us to [illegible]

- [illegible] ip[illegible] ery social event [illegible] attends any [illegible] [illegible] the *mum*[illegible] [illegible] ccasion [illegible] to extend [illegible] [illegible] with the [illegible] ughtful [illegible]

- [illegible]

- [illegible] erv[illegible] don't [illegible] se his nam[illegible] Or mayb[illegible] th[illegible] uld not get [illegible] questioned. He [illegible] ften than not, [illegible] ke up or [illegible] closest [illegible] the "Spa[illegible] d-Artista. Th[illegible] one is tryi[illegible] With the entire countr[illegible] wh[illegible] n he not be like th[illegible] nte[illegible] by dropping some [illegible] fr[illegible] ance [illegible] ing [illegible] nd [illegible] the [illegible] at does not pr[illegible] sh[illegible] n his r[illegible] ist [illegible] photo [illegible] akes [illegible]

- [illegible] ick [illegible] gett[illegible] he[illegible] tiv[illegible] diff[illegible] e how [illegible] orke[illegible] she also th[illegible] first time [illegible] of the promises she had n[illegible] candidates running in the sam[illegible] unmindful that they were bitter enemi[illegible] forgotten that they once insulted each [illegible] there [illegible] the public official wh[illegible] she would not run, only to take it [illegible] And the list goes on.

I like to believe that not all politicians [illegible] that matter, are bad. I would like to belie[illegible] candidates have clean intentions in running [illegible] proper credentials and experience that [illegible] put such intentions into practice. [illegible] But we should [illegible] nl hope [illegible] Ma[illegible] ar[illegible] some[illegible] andi[illegible]

The vote of the poor (2)

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

LAST week, we shared portions of the [illegible] the research done by the Ateneo Univer[illegible] stitute for Philippine Culture (IPC) on [illegible] poor view elections and choose their candid[illegible]

The IPC's "The Vote of the Poor: The Valu[illegible] Pragmatics of Elections" tries to answer th[illegible] tions: Do the poor produce a "dumb ma[illegible] What do the poor think of elections? How [illegible] make their choices? How much influence [illegible] media exert on them? What to them are [illegible] of a true leader?

The IPC used focused group [illegible] (FGDs) as a tool to get to the [illegible] perceptions of the subject[illegible]

Here's more.

The most important sources of influ[illegible] choice of candidates are: media, family [illegible] political parties, one's own judgment [illegible] *walang nakakaimpluwensya* [illegible] of conferences and forums [illegible] issues that I've attended [illegible] abroad this past decade, the m[illegible] been pointed to as one of the [illegible] tors in shaping individuals [illegible] schools, churches and [illegible] job?)

According to the IPC, the m[illegible] be a crucial bridge between the p[illegible] ideals and the process of ch[illegible] tious mass media practitioner[illegible] ways by which their profession [illegible] tive in playing this all-important [illegible]

To arrive at an informed ch[illegible] the participants recognize the [illegible] most crucial role. Only among rural p[illegible] do the media not figure as the most im[illegible] source of influence. The family and th[illegible] are on top of their list.

While the participants get informat[illegible] newspapers, radio and TV, the youth al[illegible] text messages and the Internet. The IPC [illegible] out that across all groups, *tsismis* [illegible] talk) figure as a source of inform[illegible] on [illegible] sons (*pakiki-alamuha*) with other people [illegible] so deemed important. Urbanites also look [illegible] leaflets, campaign streamers to get to kn[illegible] candidates.

[illegible] alidati[illegible] re[illegible]istr[illegible]

My grudging vote

[illegible] ist shy [illegible] Mon[illegible] [illegible] or president [illegible] heart for the [illegible] and grow in wisdom and strengt[illegible] [illegible] th[illegible] w[illegible] ng [illegible] nd be able to pull [illegible] of the [illegible] ws. We must now all [illegible] a parish.

Bring a list [illegible] the polling pla[illegible] rial and council [illegible] late[illegible] list nam[illegible] order to make tallying easy.

[illegible]mments

Departures

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IT was only after my father passed away that [illegible] lly got to know my mother's side of the fami[illegible] No one was warmer and more welcoming th[illegible] my mother's brother, Luis. By profession, [illegible] banker; by temperament, he was a conn[illegible] he was that rare kind of character, a pe[illegible] personality in spades.

The holidays for him were exhaus[illegible] ning months ahead with the careful selection a[illegible] purchase of ingredients for his famous (and [illegible] eted) fruitcakes. I remember mentioning [illegible] the theory current among people m[illegible] g[illegible] have had to endure too many inferior lump[illegible] dough passed off as holiday edible[illegible] the [illegible] was only one fruitcake in the world, pa[illegible] from one unwilling home to another. He [illegible] his eyebrow and said, with mock hauteur, "Pe[illegible] would kill for one of mine." And he was right.

He was fastidious, too, about the Christm[illegible] ham, making his way to Quiapo for a particul[illegible] type and engaging in neat brawls with vendor[illegible] who would try to sell him pre-sliced pieces. F[illegible] was a matter not to be taken lightly. Once, fa[illegible] for the first time with a Christmas turke[illegible] culinary department of another of my moth[illegible] brothers, I made the mistake of asking for [illegible] berry sauce. My uncle Luis paused, and then slowly (you'd have to have seen it to beli[illegible] possible) rolled his eye[illegible] Here [illegible] turns out, a turkey prepared in the [illegible] and thus began a chorus of indignatio[illegible]

"How American!" [illegible] uncle rum[illegible] both he and my uncle Luis began to [illegible] generation whose sins, it seems, include [illegible] diction to sweet flavorings to what should [illegible] ory foods. One of the mortal sins bein[illegible] abomination: sweet spaghetti.

Suitably chastened, I would, fro[illegible] pick my uncle Luis' brain [illegible] umed in the grand mann[illegible] aiki[illegible] ways an education in the [illegible]

[illegible] me, with a [illegible] his [illegible] which dated [illegible] confided, [illegible] Manil[illegible] old families [illegible] families [illegible] plained with [illegible] publish them." I'd [illegible] don't want the whole [illegible] ok them. I'd [illegible] to [illegible] ad and think [illegible] lost!' [illegible] naughty [illegible] He'd pause, and with [illegible] u know what I'll do [illegible] hel[illegible] he'd te[illegible] m [illegible] finally [illegible] a [illegible] mputer. But I'll be [illegible] gh as I'd try [illegible] terity [illegible]

[illegible] for good luck [illegible] expl[illegible] giggled.

He never married, but [illegible] comfortably in the bosom of his family, taking time off to travel and do the things retired people do, from fussing over [illegible] to fretting over the problems of his friends. Some years back, one of his closest friends passed away and he took care of the friend's affairs with thoroughness and great concern. This was the other side of him, part of the heritage he shared with his brothers and sisters: a strict and demanding professionalism, a desire to be tidy in all things, for it showed an adherence to that preeminent virtue: consideration for others.

The last time I got to talk to him, on the eve of my mother's birthday, he was tired. He'd spent nine hours making pastry from scratch. He was exhausted, but proud of his home-made [illegible] Early the next morning, he had a heart [illegible] morning (Wednesday), his heart [illegible] out.

Rest in peace, Luis Orense Cas[illegible] 2004 Tito Louie, you wer[illegible] ma[illegible] vanilla world.

Whether you're a fir[illegible] ballot for the first time [illegible] [illegible] cumentary [illegible] pine President [illegible] on ABS-CBN [illegible] pine [illegible] enter [illegible]

THEY SAID

Market test

A person for others

[illegible]

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Golf and leadership

SEVERAL people, the latest of whom is no less than His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, have come up with suggestions in choosing our next president.

I have a very simple one to offer.

Take them to the golf course and watch them play. They are reputed to be golfers anyway. Some of them can even afford to give away expensive golf carts.

See if they observe the rules of the game strictly. See if they observe the etiquette of the game, especially with respect to other players.

See if they give you their proper score; if they give you par when they only got a bogie. Such golfers will not hesitate to cheat in other endeavors, particularly properly counting the ballots.

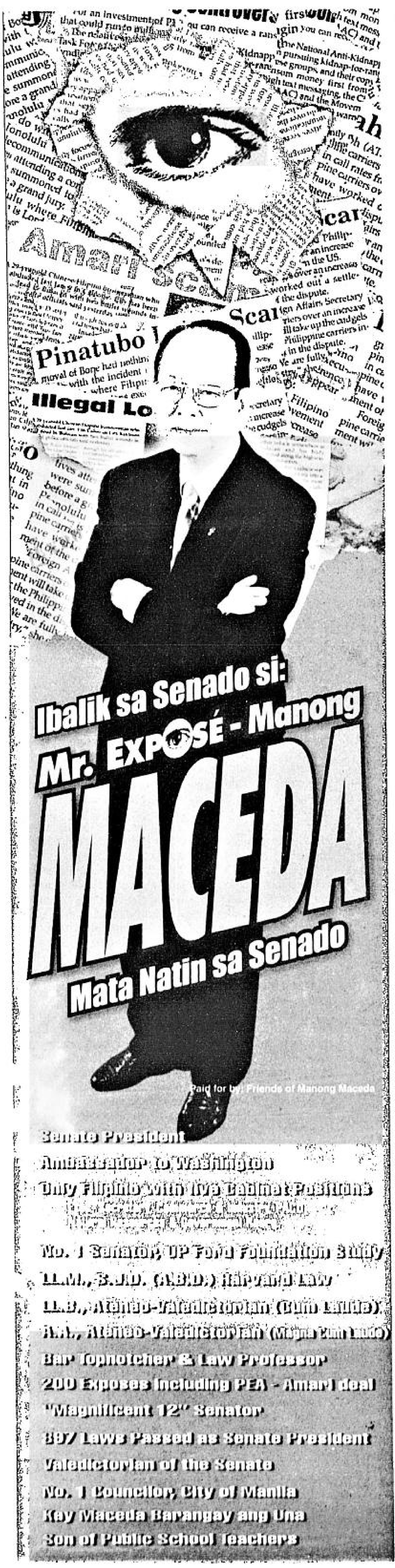
See if they unduly and excessively take advantage of favorable rules. If they do, they would not hesitate to take advantage of others and their positions.

See if they would impose a penalty stroke on themselves when they breach a rule, particularly when no one sees the infraction except themselves.

If they always carry an extra ball in their pockets to drop in case of a lost ball and exclaim "I've found it!" to avoid penalizing themselves, truly they cannot be expected to be honest to the people. They cannot be trusted.

I have found out that the best way to test the character of a person is to take him out for a round of golf. This humbling game tells me whom I can trust. It tells me who can easily be intoxicated by temporary success and who can handle life's debacles.

—CECIL PERALTA,
8905-116 St., Delta,
British Columbia, Canada



Senate President
Ambassador to Washington
Only Filipino with five Cabinet Positions
No. 1 Senator, UP Ford Foundation Study
LL.M., S.J.D. (A.B.D.) Harvard Law
LL.B., Ateneo-Valedictorian (Cum Laude)
A.A., Ateneo-Valedictorian (Magna Cum Laude)
Bar Topnotcher & Law Professor
200 Exposes including PEA - Amari deal
"Magnificent 12" Senator
897 Laws Passed as Senate President
Valedictorian of the Senate
No. 1 Councilor, City of Manila
Kay Maceda Barangay ang Una
Son of Public School Teachers

LETTERS

Slaying the dynastic dragons

LEAH P. Makabenta's "Philippine politics a family affair" (PDI, 4/23/04) must serve as a real eye-opener for our electorate. It calls for a "huge opposition protest" against this octopus-like practice of powerful families seeking immortality through elective posts.

If their qualities or traits are those set by Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales, there'd be no harm for them to "pursue the dream" to serve in public offices. People with the qualities of "*maka-Diyos*," people who are dedicated to serve the poor and who stand on high principles, among others, must be given the chance to serve. Through these leaders, we are assured that our government will be run honestly and come up with excellent performance in governance.

If Prof. Ricardo Abad's opinion is true—that this (dynastic practice) is the "reason why inequalities persist in Philippine society"—we must put an end to it. If the use of wealth and power becomes "hot spots" every election time, the electorate should subdue it.

Makabenta's article clearly, although indirectly, urges the electorate to open their minds and eyes in wisely choosing candidates. It tells us to reject those who only dream of making public offices as a stepping stone to attain "stellar careers" and to perpetuate the stay of their clan in power.

Indeed, this is a challenge to the intellectual and educated among us. The elite must be brought into this struggle. We can be disciples of change promoting a mind shift among these people subjugated by wealth and power.

At this point in time, we may be fighting a Goliath who has grown so huge and has become difficult to topple down. But the war between good and evil must start from a choice. And remember, the good will always triumph in the end.

—JOSE M. BRIONES,
64 Jones St., Bagumbayan,
Daraga, Albay

Nene on Montalvan's column

RE Antonio Montalvan's column "The Nene on my mind," (PDI, 4/26/04) let me just say that:

1. My record as a public servant speaks for itself. Even if I may say so myself, the record can withstand the scrutiny of Montalvan and can compare favorably with the records of those who are running for the Senate.

2. I ask that as I am seeking reelection as a senator, I be judged on the basis of that record.

3. I will not defend the other candidates for the Senate, whether or not they are my colleagues in the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, from any misdeed, wrongdoing or crime they might have committed against the people. Let them fend for themselves in that regard. What I stress on the campaign trail are their positives. Let those who do not see things my way denounce them. It is their perfect right to do so. I even got arrested four times during martial rule in my desire to help create a democratic environment where people may speak out freely.

4. On fundamental issues, then, on things that really matter, such as when our people are oppressed, the records show that I speak out regardless of personal consequences even as some critics who now enjoy the blessings of freedom have chosen to keep silent.

—SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL JR.,
6/F Senate of the Philippines,
GSIS Bldg., Roxas Boulevard,
Pasay City

Respect the people's votes

I WOULD like to make a clarification regarding the story titled "FPJ vows 'lasting peace' with Reds." (PDI, 4/21/04)

The article which cites me as having suggested that there could be a "communist vote" is misleading. I have never conveyed in any way such a phrase to anybody as long as I can remember.

In no way can the unprecedented 1.7 million votes that Bayan Muna garnered in 2001 be misconstrued as a "communist vote." Neither can the overwhelming 22 percent party-list votes that pollster Pulse Asia ascribed to Bayan Muna in its latest survey be tagged as a "communist vote" or as a "communist preference."

This would be extremely unfair to the wide cross-section of Filipinos who voted for Bayan Muna three years ago and who will vote for Bayan Muna this year. I like to believe that many of them just want to vote plainly on the basis of the sincere and effective public service that Bayan Muna is providing.

I am also compelled to point out that the all too convenient use of the "communist" tag on Bayan Muna sends the dangerous signal that Bayan Muna is communist in the likeness of the New People's Army rebels—the same lie being maliciously peddled by the black propaganda mill of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. Interestingly, Gonzales' party-list group in the 2001 elections wasn't able to get a seat in the House of Representatives as we convincingly did.

I would like to stress that the "Red-baiting" and witch-hunting being conducted against Bayan Muna have already caused the death of 37 of our coordinators and members in the hands of suspected military men. Seven of our members remain missing to date, all victims of enforced disappearance.

On May 10, we will submit our fate to the people. Let them be the judge come election day if Bayan Muna will be given a renewed mandate to serve the country the best way we can. To our critics, we simply ask: respect the people's votes!

—REP. SATUR OCAMPO,
Bayan Muna Party List,
South Wing,
House of Representatives, QC

I DID not write the phrase "communist vote." I used the phrase "Left vote." The word may have crept in during editing.

—CARLITO PABLO,
PDI reporter

Crumbs and insults

THE RECENT announcement of Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas last April 27 regarding non-wage "benefits" for employees was no surprise. This was the same "benefits" given last year. After three years in office, the Macapagal administration has made it clear to the public that it has no intention of providing wage increase. The moment workers make their demand for higher wages in public, a chorus of NO echoes from the government, capitalist and pro-ECOP (Employers' Confederation of the Philippines) apologists. Even the supposed P30 ECOLA that President Macapagal-Arroyo keeps on bragging about was never enjoyed by the workers, due to many exemptions, if not outright violations, by capitalists.

Workers made it crystal clear that they want a P125 wage increase. In response, Ms Macapagal and Sto. Tomas offer free train rides, discounts at business establishments, tickets to the Philippine Basketball Association games and a free concert!

First of all, the MRT and LRT provide service for Metro Manila only, so how can workers from Cebu, who suffer from the same problem as workers nationwide, benefit from the free train rides? Discounts are good, if you have money to spend. According to the National Wages and Productivity Commission, the daily cost of living has reached P594, a far cry from the present P250 minimum wage. Again, with so little disposable income, shopping in department stores becomes a luxury for the working people.

We have noted during the 2004 campaign period that candidates are more than willing to do anything to get the approval of big business (e.g., accommodating capitalists in their platform of government). But when it comes to workers' demands, vague answers are given.

What we are looking for are clear answers to the six sets of demands of the working people. These are: immediate, decent increase in wages, job creation, decent housing program and basic social services, respect for workers' rights, genuine land reform and an end to government support for the US war of aggression.

These are concrete, sensible demands for which the workers get mere crumbs and insults.

—PAUL QUINTOS,
executive director,
Ecumenical Institute for Labor
Education and Research,
eiler@tri-isys.com

Banahaw in April

HIGH BLOOD

Mary Vidal

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

WAS it fair to have only a morning in which to visit Tayabas? No hick town, it is 130 kilometers from Manila and much burnished by its 425-year history. So ancient and storied at the foothill of Mount Banahaw, surely it has much to reveal. But a morning was all I had—and what a sparklingly fair morning it was 12 days after the recent Easter.

Banahaw and its companion mountain, San Cristobal, were brightly visible, right at the tip of my nose, they seemed. "If you stood there and waved to me," I said to Erwin who was one of the two young men taking me around, "I would see you." As his profession and passion, Erwin takes photographs with exquisite sensitivity. I pointed out to him a clearing on Mount Banahaw and recalled how once, as night fell on the other side, I had watched hand-held lamp lights ascending as residents climbed home on the Tiaong side of the mountain. He mulled on how he could have photographed that.

Seeing Banahaw up close is sheer indulgence for me. This morning I feasted on its peaks and slopes, its grasslands and its tree stands basking in the early sunlight. I savored it as I would the face of someone I cherish but who constantly hides from me. Where I live on its Laguna side in Los Baños is a distant eminence clouded over for most months of the year. At times, you would not even know it is there, so drenched it is with clouds. I have a diary in which I record full sightings of Mount Banahaw because they are rare from where I live but spectacular each time. I dream of seeing it traced by moonlight—from my side—but that seems to require planetary conjunction.

Beside me was Jun, the other young man taking me around Tayabas. He talks, walks and breathes Mount Banahaw, so steeped is he in its geology and anthropology, even on its wind patterns. As well he should be. He is writing a book on the Banahaw ecological culture that he calls "Pasintabi." Jun works in an office whose front door opens to a full view of the grand mountain. Paraphrasing Auden, he can truly say of Banahaw, it is "my north and my south, my east and my west, my working week, my Sunday rest."

Magnetized by the mountain as much as by the town itself, Jun says: "I cannot live elsewhere but here in Tayabas." He was born there. His mother, his grandparents and great-grandparents were born there. And, most important, the writer, poet and artist in him were born and are nurtured there. So embraced by sylvan and historic Tayabas, Jun writes verses with joyous facility in hexameter, following the tradition of the home-grown *awit* that celebrates, mourns or yearns.

We began with a visit to the home of Jun's mother. The central purpose of my visit to Tayabas was to pay my respects to her, whom I had come to admire. She died shortly before Christmas Day 2003. Her daughter Aleli had written her biography, the story of a valiant woman who lived face to face with God each day. This morning I stood at last in her room, beside her bed where she suffered bravely, cheerfully and prayerfully the scourge of cancer. Touching her bed I realized: from here she leaped to heaven. Then we went to her tomb in the Tayabas cemetery and there she had yet more to say to us. She reposes in the family mausoleum where her parents and grandparents are in raised marble tombs. But she chose to be buried at ground level, tucked away in a corner, behind a bench. At least she allowed her name to be inscribed upon the tombstone: Consuelo Valencia Redor, 1937-2003.

Now to be among the living, Jun said. First stop was Casa de Communidad, once the seat of the colonial government in Tayabas and alive it truly is in our times. This morning children in a painting class were sprawled in the middle of the huge upper hall. The building houses the town library (where the favorite reading is the daily newspapers); is an occasional grand theater for plays (the playwright Orlando Nadres was from Tayabas); and has permanent cultural and historical exhibits. But the Casa itself is its own major exhibit. Built in 1831, burned down in 1945, it was rebuilt under the supervision of the National Historical Commission as one of its finest specimen of authentic stone reconstruction.

From the window of Casa de Communidad, we looked out to the Basilica of St. Michael, the true and living monument of Tayabas. The stone church was built in 1600, damaged by an earthquake in 1743, repaired in 1746 with one-meter thick walls (still standing today), expanded with four transepts in 1856, spared from damage and destruction in 1945 and declared a basilica in 1987. It is an awesome church, made truly moving for me because my brother was once its parish priest.

We chose to rest in the park in front of the *municipio* where we had gone to look at a beautiful map of Tayabas town. As a development design, it was made early in the American regime, following the flow of the water from Mount Banahaw and provided with four gardens at each corner of the municipal territory. ("Like Paris," Jun pointed out. He had lived and studied in France in the '80s.) Beside the park, a woman was roasting *saba* bananas, the comfort food of my youth. We bought a pile of the roast bananas, which were large, succulent and very sweet.

So sustained, we moved on across town to the countryside where stands the magnificent stone bridge built over the Magalonglong river in 1840 to connect Tayabas with the town of Pagbilao in the east. A new bridge is being completed. We leaned on its parapet to view the old stone span, now unused and festooned with thick vines. But beneath it, the Magalonglong was lively, fresh and clear, singing among the rocks. As boys, Jun and his friends hiked to this river, swam to the stone base of the bridge and from there dived and frolicked in the deep, cool waters. Their parents did not know where they were.

Nor did anyone know where we were as the April morning seared closer to noon. No traffic moved across the new bridge. Erwin freely took photographs. But eavesdropping into our conversation were the tall pylons propping the power lines of the Pagbilao electric plant. If I had strained, I could have heard the hum of its transmission.

Old times underlie new times in Tayabas. While farmers astride horses still canter to town on errands, Tayabas grows and thrives as a vibrant and productive town, earning from farm produce, handicrafts and delicious home cooked treats. Through their art, Erwin and Jun straddle both old and new times in exuberant loyalty. With the camera and his exquisite eye, Erwin frames the old monuments in the context of new technology. With his poetry and scholarship, Jun preserves what binds him to Tayabas in ancestry and in a near-mystical identification with Banahaw. As he walks about the town, he has the habit of bobbing his chin as he smiles to greet the people he knows—so many of them, so often. "I get chin cramps," he says.

Mary Vidal says she will never see 50 again. She is a widow who runs an inn in Laguna, west of Mount Banahaw.

Polls get in way of relief for drough

KIDAPAWAN CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol and his supporters blocked the distribution of thousands of sacks of rice by the city government as they claim that the goods were being used to buy people's votes.

Stored in a private warehouse here, the bags of rice were part of the 2,000 bags purchased by the city government from the National Food Authority (NFA) worth P1.5-million in April as government's aid to the province, including the city, which was declared under a state of calamity in March.

But the camp of Piñol suspected that the city officials were just trying to bribe the people.

"We're blocking the release of these rice because it's obvious that it is being distributed for partisan purposes. The provision of the law says whenever there is calamity every election period, the distribution of assistance should be done through the supervision of the Comelec and the Commission on Audit. And it should be distributed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development," Piñol said.

What makes the distribution even more suspicious, the governor said, was that it was being done during night time. He said the rice was stored in a private warehouse, a few meters from the residence of incumbent mayor Luis Malaluan.

Malaluan is running for vice mayor while the current vice mayor is seeking the mayoral position against Piñol's brother Patricio.

City officials called Piñol's move as political harassment and intimidation.

"What is illegal about this? Nothing. This is so inhuman. People are out there with not enough food to eat and they (Piñols) were so inhuman to block the little food we should have given the people," Malaluan said in a telephone interview.

Explaining the city's point, Malaluan said they have already donated the rice to the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), which should have distributed the ri

"There is a calamity and i our obligation to respond to people's needs," he said.

But Piñol said the city gover ment only sought the involvem the PNRC in order for them to too much trouble as the gove brother filed disqualification charg against Malaluan and Gantuanc alleged massive vote-buying. Jo DI Mindanao Bureau

A SERENE scene at the foot of a hill on top of which stood the Dolce Vita Mansion where crimes Boracay has not seen before was committed on Monday.

ERIK DE CASTRO/REUTERS

DENR files illegal log charges against troop

SORSOGON CITY—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources charged last week two military men with alleged involvement in the illegal cutting of trees, estimated to be worth P1.9 million, within the Bulusan Volcano Natural Park in December last year.

Charged with violation of Section 68 of Presidential Decree No. 705 or the Forestry Reform Code before the Sorsogon Provincial Prosecutor's Office were Sgt. Lorenzo Domdom, one Sgt. Villarey and several unidentified soldiers all of the Army's 2nd Infantry Battalion, 9th Infantry Brigade based in Barangay Anog, Juban, Sorsogon.

But forest guards have expressed fears for their safety because the soldiers who were charged may retaliate.

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PDI Visayas Bureau

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Police said the murders were probably triggered by a robbery that went horribly wrong.

Investigators said one of the leads they have was provided by a cap left beside the blood-stained remains of one of the foreigners. They said the cap narrows to nine of the foreigners' workers the number of suspects.

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Their remains were taken to the Pardos Funeral Parlor in Caticlan in the Aklan mainland, the take off point to the island-resort that can be reached by a 15-minute ferry boat ride.

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"The rooms were ransacked. The mattresses inside the rooms were turned upside down because, as we were informed, (Fausenhauser) hid his money under the bed. Possibly it was an inside job," Police Regional Office 6 director Supt. George Aliño told reporters yesterday.

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Edwin Trompeta, tourism regional director, said the murders were "an isolated case" that should not harm tourism on the island because they took place not in a tourist area. *With a report from Recto Vidal, PDI Visayas Bureau, Gil Cabacungan and AFP*

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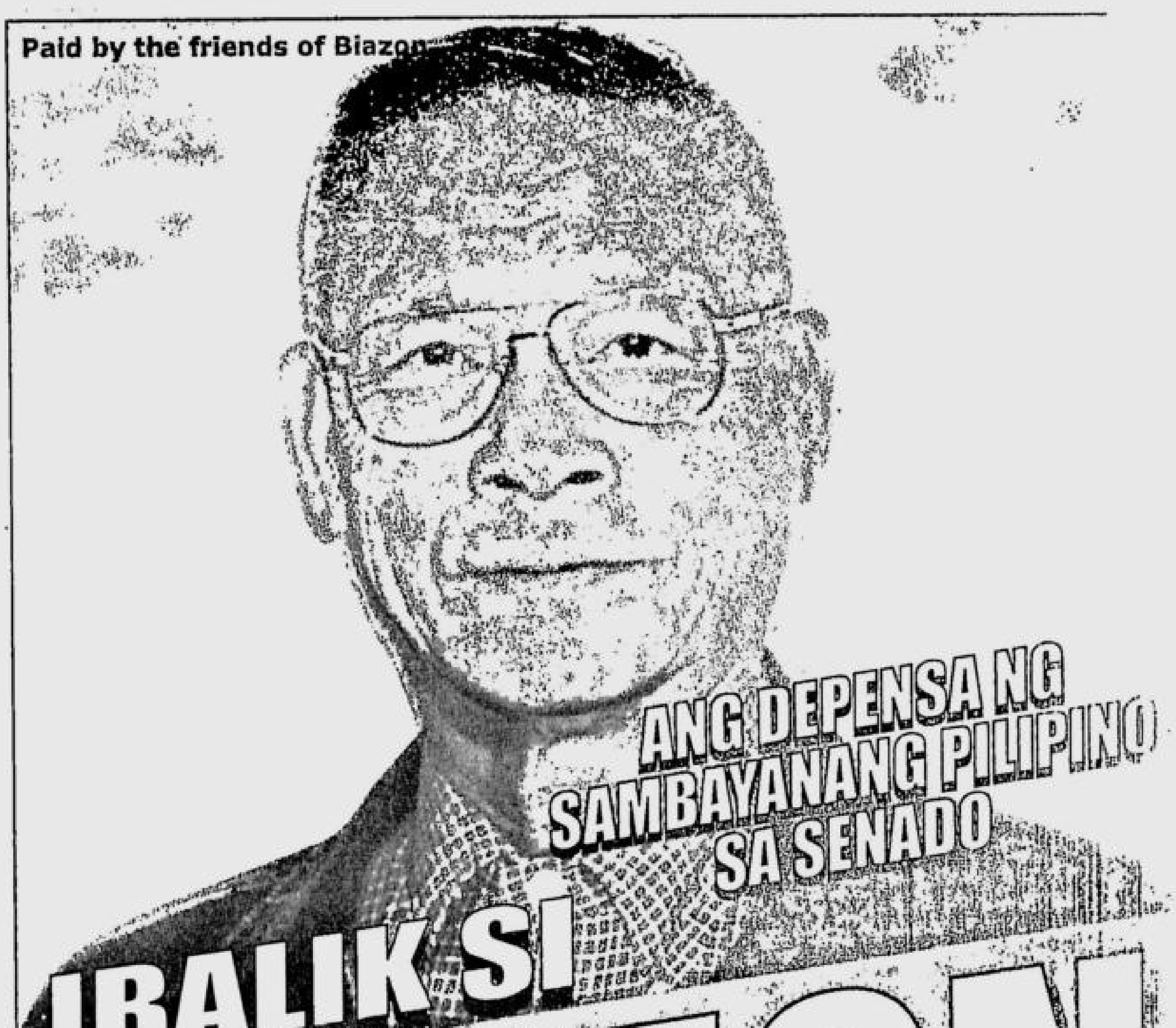

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Nitong nakaraang
Ika-11 at Ika- 12 Kongreso,
siya ay naghain ng mga panukalang batas
sa kanyang limang adbokasiya patungkol sa:

- Pabahay
- Reporma sa AFP at PNP
- Pagtaguyod sa mga pangangailangan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda upang sila ay makasabay sa pandaigdigang kalakalan;
- Suporta sa mga kooperatiba lalong-lalo na sa edukasyon, teknolohiya, *lingkages* at pondo para sa negosyo na may mababang interes; at
- Responsableng pagpapamilya.

Ilan dito sa mga adbokasiyang ito ay naisabatas na. Ilan ay hindi pa naipapasa. Sa inyong mga kamay nakasalalay ang pagpasa ng mga panukalang batas na ito sa pamamagitan ng inyong paghalal muli sa kanya.

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MINDANAO BUREAU

Polls get in way of relief for droug

KIDAPAWAN CITY—North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol and his supporters blocked the distribution of thousands of sacks of rice by the city government as they claim that the goods were being used to buy people's votes.

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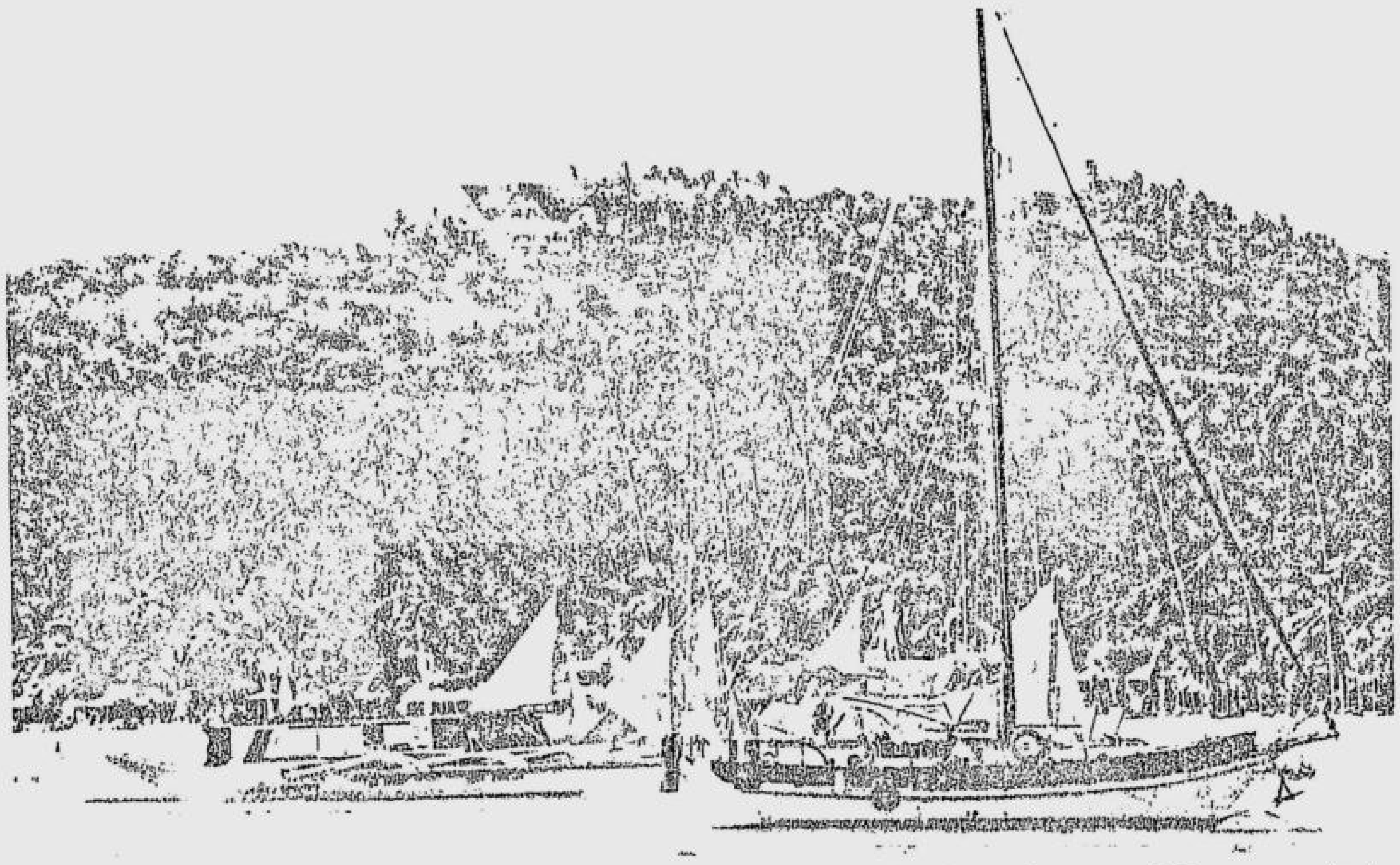

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ERIK D[illegible] TR[illegible]RS

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ANG DEPENSA NG
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Polls get in way of relief for drought

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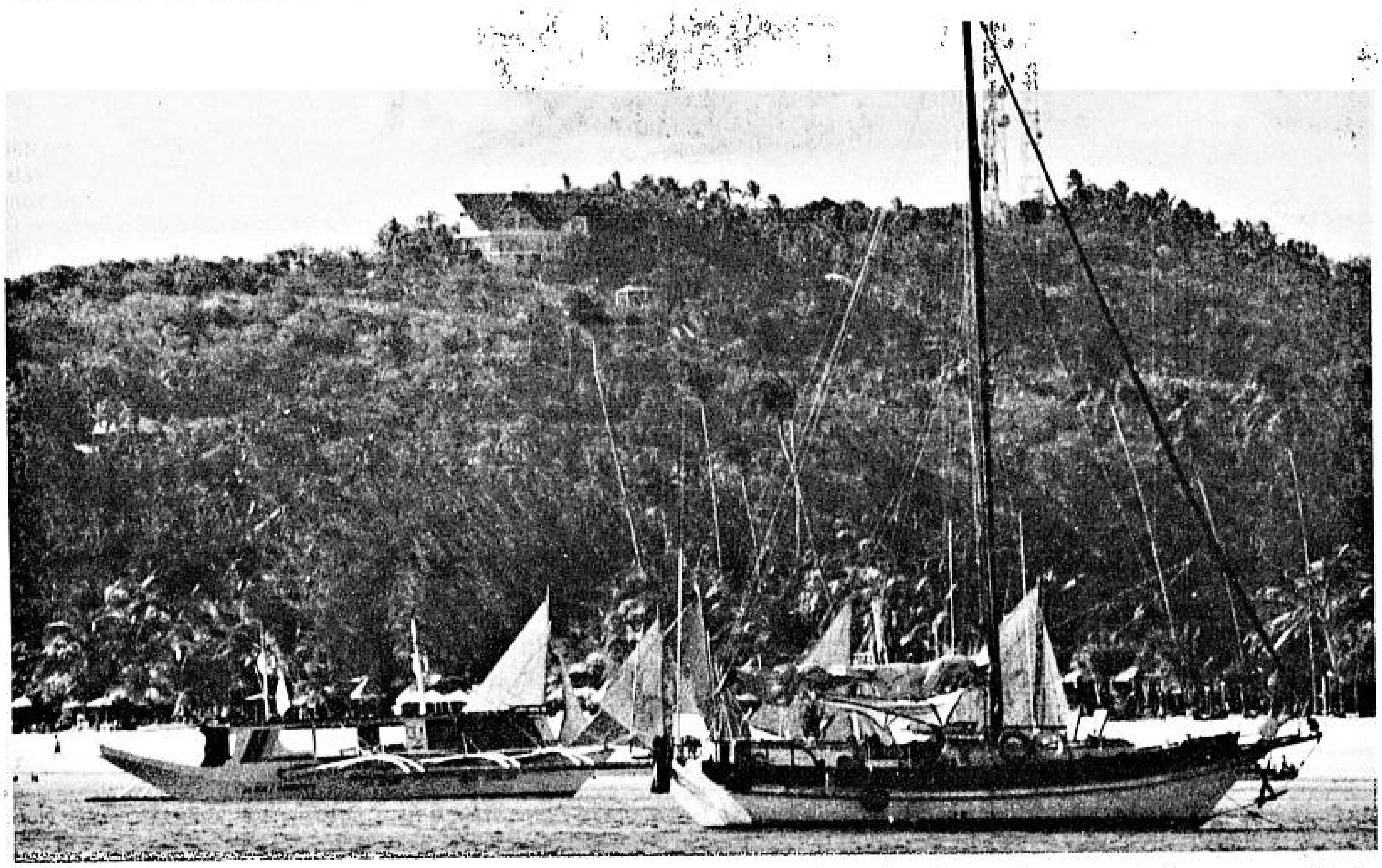

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Narvadez said the DENR should have secured pieces of evidence before it filed the case.

"Filing it without ensuring the evidence (was available) makes the case weak. It will just be for press release," said Narvadez who added that the environmental groups still have to see a copy of the complaint.

Lt. Col. Romeo Cabatic, the Army unit's commanding officer said his men are under investigation and may be subpoenaed by the court.

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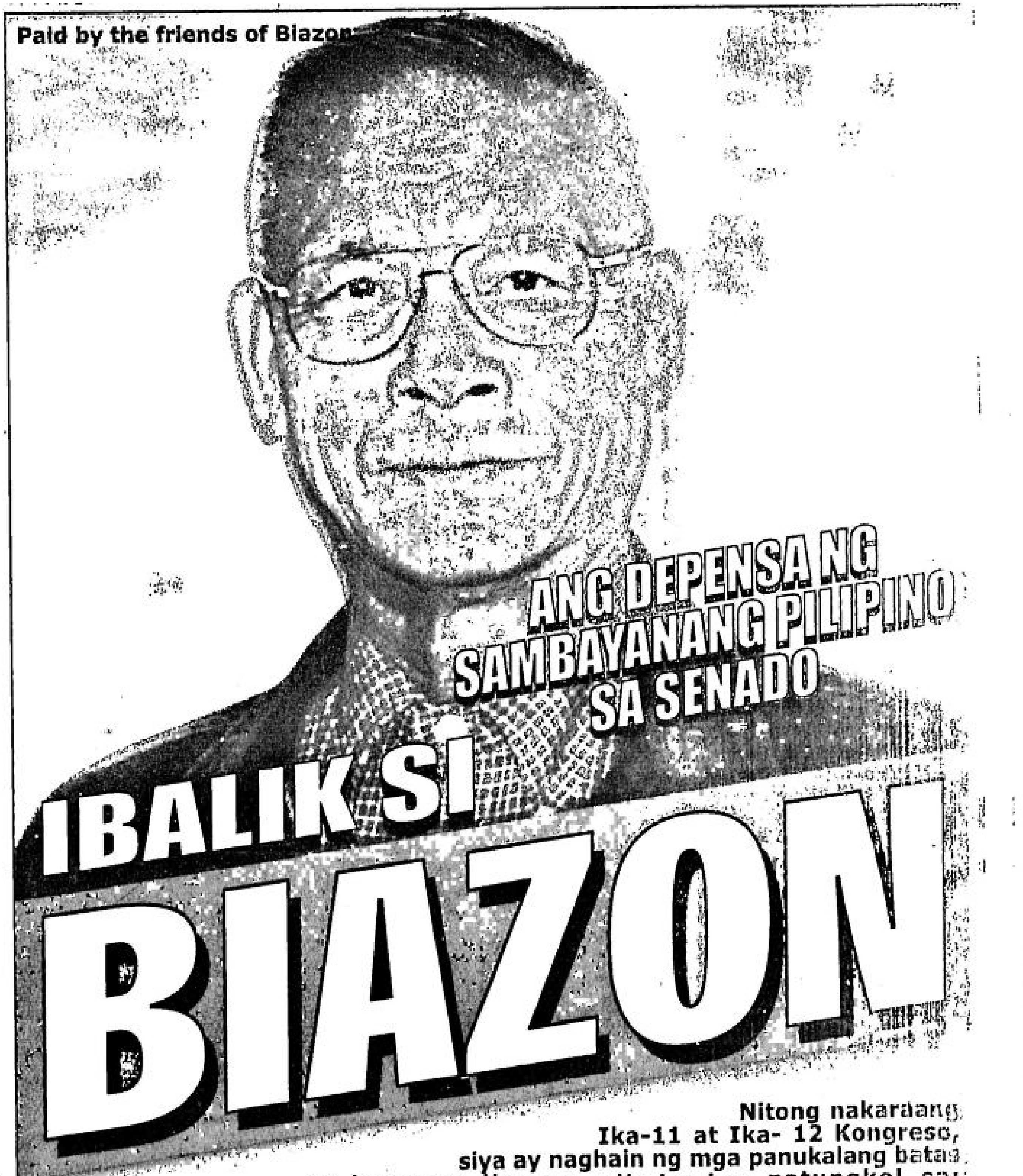
The plane hit the side of the cliff and fell into a tree at Sitio Tigib, Barangay Lagtang, Talisay, shortly before 4 p.m., Vitualia said.

The plane did not explode because it did not touch the ground, he added. The police have yet to identify the company where the plane was contracted. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*



Paid by the friends of Biazon

Nitong nakaraang
Ika-11 at Ika- 12 Kongreso,
siya ay naghain ng mga panukalang batas
sa kanyang limang adbokasiya patungkol sa:

- Pabahay
- Reporma sa AFP at PNP
- Pagtaguyod sa mga pangangailangan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda upang sila ay makasabay sa pandaigdigang kalakalan;
- Suporta sa mga kooperatiba lalong-lalo na sa edukasyon, teknolohiya, *lingkages* at pondo para sa negosyo na may mababang interes; at
- Responsableng pagpapamilya.

Ilan dito sa mga adbokasiyang ito ay naisabatas na. Ilan ay hindi pa naipapasa. Sa inyong mga kamay nakasalalay ang pagpasa ng mga panukalang batas na ito sa pamamagitan ng inyong paghalal muli sa kanya.

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3 dioceses plan fasting for clean, honest polls

BACOLOD CITY—The three dioceses of Negros Occidental have declared Thursday a day of prayer and fasting for clean and honest elections.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarro said 300 priests, nuns and lay leaders from the dioceses of Kabankalan, Bacolod and San Carlos would converge here today to join a day of prayer and fasting to help ensure "peaceful, free and believable elections."

The activity is also being held "to ask for divine guidance for the people to vote for leaders according to their conscience," Navarra said, as he noted that there were still many voters who remained undecided at this point.

The activity will start at 10 a.m. today with an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the San Sebastian Cathedral here.

In the spirit of prayer and sacrifice, those in attendance would abstain from having a full meal and would only take bread and water for lunch, according to Fr. Aniceto Buenafe, director of the Bacolod Diocese's Social Action Center.

The simple meal will be followed by a silent march around the Bacolod Plaza at 1 p.m. for the "symbolic cleansing" of the country from electoral fraud and violent incidents.

The public is also being invited to join the religious leaders in the day of prayer and fasting, Buenafe said.

Prayers, he said, would hopefully help spare the country from more violent incidents that had marred past elections and the current election campaign.

He noted that based on records they had obtained there had already been 117 politically related deaths all over the country since Feb. 10 up to April 16.

"History tells us that violence happens before and during Philippine elections. Many fear that the violence will continue even after the May 10 elections," Buenafe said.

"The foul smell of political money exudes doom and the deafening sound of guns . . . will bring national gloom," he added. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Mayor hits poll body for delay in voters' list

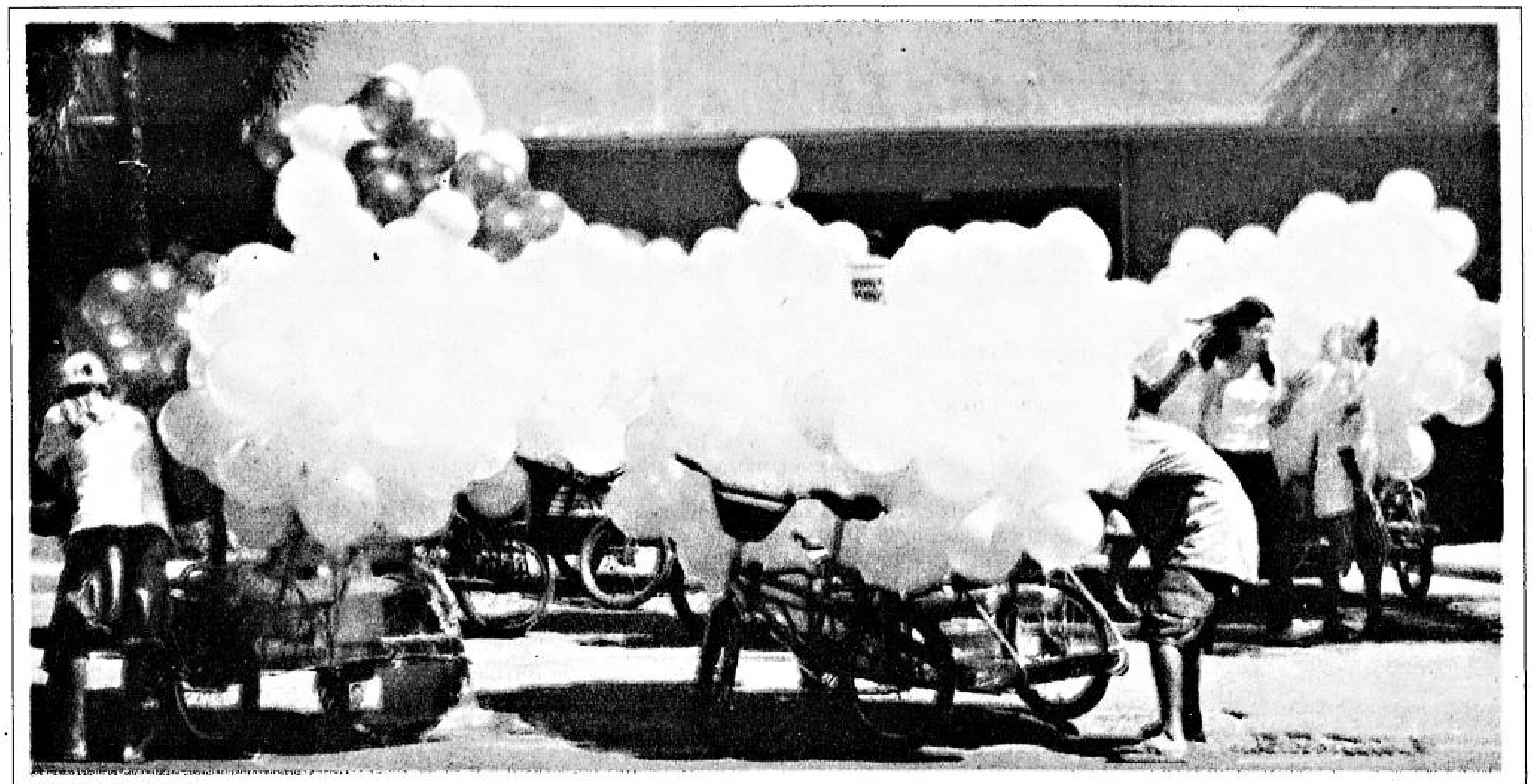
MAYOR Hermis Perez of Biñan, Laguna yesterday questioned the failure of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to provide administration candidates and an election watchdog with certified voters' lists (CVLs) in favor of an opposition candidate, a son-in-law of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos.

Rev. Fr. Eduardo Arupo of the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish Church requested for hard copies or diskettes of CVLs on May 3, to no avail.

Arupo is a member of the Vicariate of San Isidro Labrador acting as an election watchdog under the supervision of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PCRV)-National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

Perez said in a statement there was an unusual delay in the issuance of CVLs to administration candidates.

Abalos' son-in-law, Cookie Yatco, husband of Abalos' daughter Joy, is running for mayor under the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino.



READY TO FLY

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

As the clock ticks for the time bomb called elections to explode, hired hands in Dagupan City find the sale of balloons unusually good as they prepare these for a campaign rally in the city.

Benguet bets sign covenant for HOPE

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—After signing a covenant, committing themselves to peaceful, honest and free elections on May 10, they lighted candles as church leaders and lay people led in singing "One Little Candle."

The covenant signatories were provincial candidates of Benguet and municipal candidates of this provincial capital.

The Baguio-Benguet Ecumenical Group (BBEG) invited the candidates to a recent ecumenical service at the San Jose Catholic Parish Church here, during which they signed a covenant "to uphold the sanctity of the ballot and respect the will of the people expressed in the (coming) polls."

"Whether I win or lose in this election, I commit myself to seek always the common good," the candidates, although not all of them came, pledged in the covenant.

Message

"As a citizen and a resident of the Philippines, I will do my best to work for peace, justice and love, cooperating with the State, the Church and other institutions following the dictates of my conscience," read part of the covenant.

Some of those who signed the covenant said they hoped a similar activity would be done in Abra. "I wish candidates in Abra also sign covenants of HOPE (honest, orderly and peaceful elections) and light candles of peace because some of them tend to shoot each other," a candidate told the INQUIRER, citing how some Abra towns need to be closely watched on election day.

The candidates listened to a message by Rev. Simplicio Dang-awan of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines-Baguio.

Old Testament

Dang-awan cited how in the Old Testament God chose David, a shepherd, as king and not his six other brothers because "God looks at the heart and character, and not at the external appearance of people."

In pushing for the ecumenical service and covenant signing, Fr. Andres Cosalan, a Catholic priest and a leader of the ecumenical group, said "our commitment to a clean and honest election is also a sacred, Christian duty." *Maurice Malanes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ELECTION 2004

Graft prober recommends charges vs Isabela lawmaker

ROXAS, Isabela—The Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon has recommended the filing of graft and malversation charges against Isabela Rep. Edwin Uy for alleged irregularities in the use of P1.5 million in government funds while he was the province's vice governor in 2000.

Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon Victor Fernandez endorsed on April 15 a resolution recommending the filing of charges against Uy, who is running for reelection as representative of Isabela's second district.

The Ombudsman's 28-page decision showed that Uy approved a cash advance request and received a P1.5-million check from the provincial government's account in the Philippine National Bank branch in Ilagan town on Sept. 5, 2000.

The amount was intended as payment for various infrastructure projects that Uy's office had undertaken

According to the decision, Uy endorsed the check and used P1 million of the amount to pay for a personal loan to the PNB-Mallig Plains branch here. Uy received the P500,000 change from the check, it said.

But Uy, in his affidavit, said the amount was properly liquidated and was used to pay for road improvement projects in Roxas town.

He said reports that a warrant for his arrest was being readied were "black propaganda and pure lies out to discredit me."

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo disapproved the filing of separate charges on Uy's unliquidated P2.32 million in cash advances and P193,362 in representation expenses from November 1999 to August 2000 because the Commission on Audit has yet to finalize its report involving these amounts.

Gaudencio Rafael Mañalac, graft investigation and prosecution officer, said they still need "corroborative evidence" and an in-depth inquiry to evaluate whether Uy misused government money.

Isabela Vice Gov. Santiago Respicio and former provincial administrator Antonio Paguirigan filed the complaint against Uy and at least nine barangay officials and provincial employees last year. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Student says he's 'born' to mimic GMA

CHANGILAN CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BAGUIO CITY—A 22-year-old nursing student bested three other look-alikes of President Macapagal-Arroyo here and will represent the city in the national finals of the "Gloria Look-alike" contest this week.

Billy Changilan of the Baguio Central University will vie for the national crown against 14 look-alikes of Ms Macapagal in a contest organized by the group Pro-Gloria to boost the President's candidacy.

"I was born to play Madame President," said Changilan.

He said he idolized Ms Macapagal and had long wanted to meet her.

Changilan said his schoolmates at BCU often call him "Madame Glo" due to his resemblance to the President.

Changilan won P10,000 in the regional contest and got a chance to win P20,000 in the national finals which was held late last night in Manila.

The look-alike contest was launched by supporters of Ms Macapagal in a bid to make her more popular among the poor.

Organizers of the contest had said the contest's objective was also to popularize the President's platform of government should she win a full six-year term. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NPA THREATS

Farmer fears for life in party-list campaign

LUCENA CITY—A coconut farmer leader running for a congressional seat in Quezon's fourth district has expressed fears for his life after a group of communist rebels have been hounding him in his campaign sorties for his failure to settle the payment of the so-called "permit to campaign" fees.

Efren Villaseñor, chair of the Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahan ng Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyogan and a candidate of the Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, said on April 28, a member of the New People's Army operating in the area informed one of his supporters that he was in the rebel's hit list for not paying PTC.

In a statement furnished to the INQUIRER, Villaseñor disclosed that before the campaign period started, a group of NPAs, led by a woman who introduced herself as Ka Minda met him to ask him to pay P300,000 before he could campaign in the area.

He said that because of his inability to pay, the rebels lowered the PTC to P50,000 plus a laptop computer. Villaseñor retorted that he still could not afford the amount as he is now in debt because of campaign expenses.

Afterwards, Villaseñor said he received a letter signed by a certain "Ka Malaya" warning him against continuing his campaign without paying the PTC.

Villaseñor summarized the letter: "*Lumarga ka ng kampanya nang wala pang ibinibigay. Ayusin mo muna ang problema bago mangampanya para maiwasan ang paghantong sa hindi magandang pangyayari* (You started campaigning without giving anything. Settle first your problem before anything bad happens)."

The fourth district of Quezon covers Lopez, Atimonan, Calauag, Gumaca, Plaridel, Tagkawayan and the island towns of Alabat, Quezon and Perez.

Villaseñor said that suspected NPA operatives have since been often sighted as tailing him in his campaign activities.

He added that he now fears for his safety, but he fears even more for the safety of his supporters.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal assured Villaseñor that he could continue the campaign, "outside the communist controlled area" without fear of being molested by the rebels.

"No one will harm him. Its not the policy of the revolutionary forces to bodily harm candidates who refuse to pay their PTC," Rosal said in a mobile phone interview.

He asked Villaseñor to refrain from being a pawn of hardcore anti-communist Norberto Gonzales, the country's National Security Adviser and who also happened to be the PDSP political chieftain. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Lawyers to help teachers

DAVAO CITY—The Integrated Bar of the Philippines here would assign lawyers to monitor complaints of harassment and other violations against teachers on election day. Carlos Zarate, IBP-Davao City chapter president, said the deployment would be part of their commitment as one of the convenors of People's Net. Other members of People's Net include religious groups and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers. People's Net would also provide a hotline against election fraud. "We will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Kawani sa Edukasyon sa Mindanao-Alliance of Concerned Teachers," Zarate said. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Defensor awaits INC move

NAGA CITY—Secretary Michael Defensor on Tuesday appeared to be in the dark when he said the K-4 camp awaits and prays for the official statement of support of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) for the campaign of President Macapagal-Arroyo for a full six-year term. He said during a press conference here that the INC vote spells victory as shown in his experience when he won a congressional seat in Quezon City. He said President Macapagal-Arroyo will respect whatever the decision of INC leader Ernie Manalo would be. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Slain Anak Pawis leader buried

CALAPAN CITY—Murdered Anakpawis leader Isaias Manano Jr., 23, was buried at the Tawiran Memorial Gardens here Tuesday after a necrological service at the evangelical church in the morning and amid the cry of relatives and friends for speedy justice for him. Manano was gunned down on April 28 in Barangay Pachoca here. Calapan City police chief Supt. Alexander Aceveda appealed to the relatives to be given a chance to investigate the murder and solve it. Condemning the killing of Manano, Aceveda vowed to be impartial. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Born-again Christians divided

SORSOGON CITY—Members of the evangelical churches here, commonly called Born-Again Christians, are divided on whether to support Bro. Eddie Villanueva, head of Jesus Is Lord movement, or President Macapagal-Arroyo for president in the May 10 elections. Some pastors of the Sorsogon for Jesus Movement (SJM) are openly supporting Ms Macapagal's candidacy because of the proddings of business mogul Loida Nicolas-Lewis and her brother Francis Nicolas, a pastor in Manila, despite meeting with a representative of Villanueva. Lewis, a Catholic supportive of Born Again Christians, confirmed that she talked with the members of SJM at the beginning . . . but when Bro. Eddie declared (his candidacy) I have to leave them to their own decision." *Emir Emano Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Party-lists seek halt to killings

CALAMBA CITY—Reacting to the recent series of killing, abduction and harassment of leaders and members of progressive party-lists in Southern Tagalog, Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Anak ng Bayan, Gabriela Women's Party and Migrante chapters in Southern Tagalog said President Macapagal-Arroyo "must pay for these injustices committed." The Southern Tagalog regional coordinators of the six party-lists reported that "simultaneous and systematic attacks on their members in the past weeks have resulted in the death of six individuals, disappearance of two youth, and the serious wounding of a woman." *Clarice Colting, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Sorsogon beach town lures back natives

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Gubat, Sorsogon

AFTER a ten-hour drive from Manila into the winding, undulating terrain of rice fields and coconut groves emerges a vacation and retirement haven bounded by white beaches and sprawling shorelines at the edge of Southern Luzon.

Gubat may not be prominent on the tourist map of Sorsogon province, but the town's residents have laid out a good carpet for visitors and wandering natives.

Only 18 km from the capital of Sorsogon City, Gubat has a big number of middle-class families eking out their living in the United States, Canada, Australia, United Kingdom and other European countries.

Gubatnon families in northern California and other states in America have formed an organization that initiates socially oriented projects. The group has been making its presence felt in its beloved town's social affairs.

Several residents have also started pouring investments on retirement homes. Refurbished ancestral houses, new bungalows and rest houses on the popular Rizal Beach are now used as vacation homes of *balikbayans*.

Every year, a batch of returning natives flies home for a vacation and, at the same time, attend the week-long fiesta revelry marking the founding celebration of Gubat, the people's triumph over Moro pirates, and the feast of San Antonio de Padua.

History

According to historical accounts, Gubat was once a settlement under the leadership of legendary brothers Manook and Manina, whose bloodline could be traced back to Raja Sikatuna, one of the 10 Bornean datus who fled to the archipelago during the reign of the Majapajit Empire in Borneo.

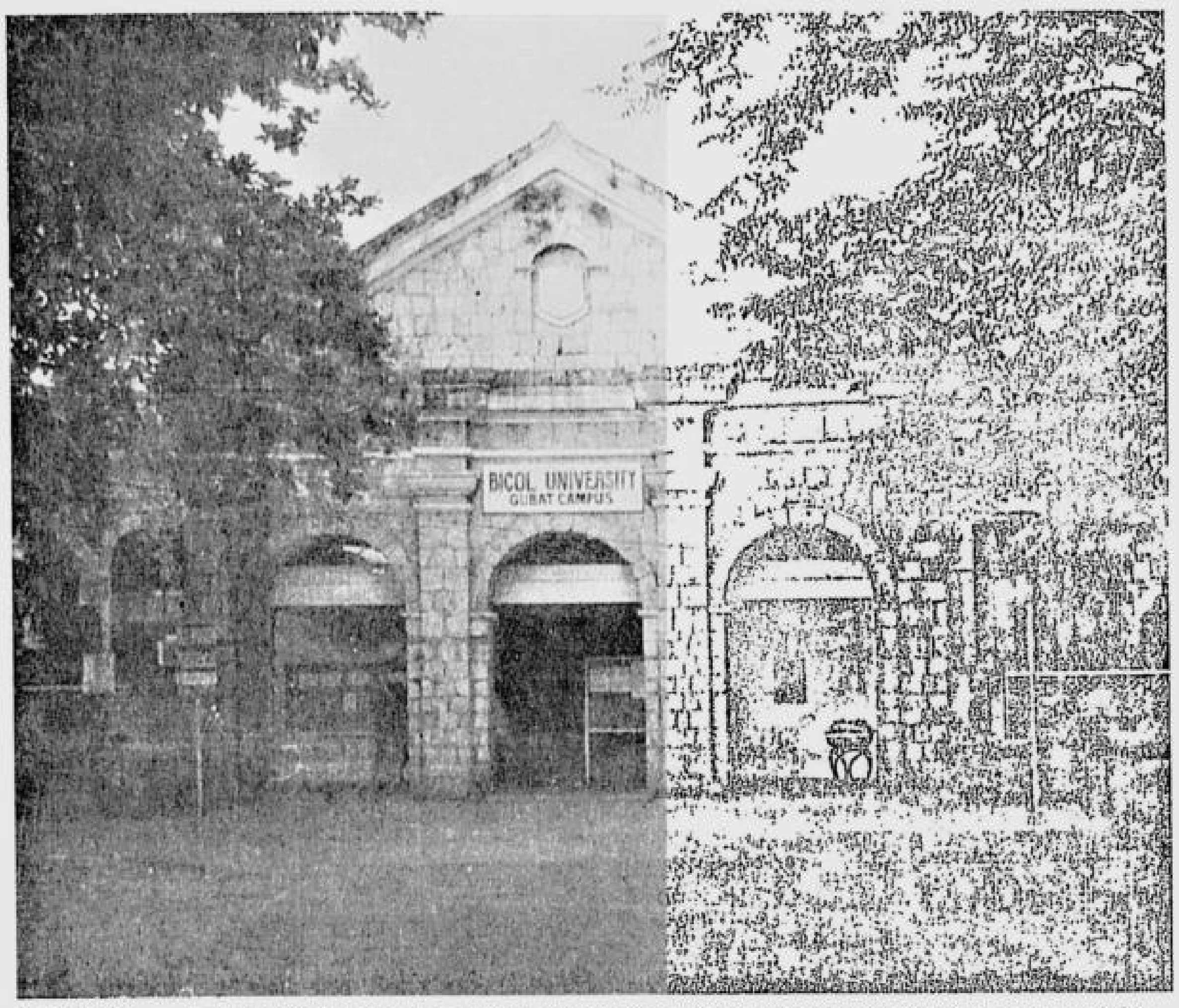
It was said that Manook submitted to Spanish colonization and was baptized Don Pedro Manook, while Manina resisted the Spanish Crown and took refuge at Allen, Samar, a one-hour ride in a pump boat or outrigger motorized banca from Gubat port.

After some time, Manina sneaked into Gubat from Allen and arrived at dusk in Malobago (now Barangay Rizal, home to the town's famous beach of white sand). Through a courier, he contacted his younger brother, and from then on, the two devised all possible means to avoid detection from Spanish authorities and maintain their bond of brotherhood in their lifetime.

But during the "hamletting" of the towns of Sorsogon in favor of greater control of the Church constituency, it was learned that most clans here were renamed. Thus, in Gubat, Don Pedro's clan was renamed Escandor, while others adapted Esporlas, Enaje, Endino, Espineda, Espidido, Estipona, Escote, Escoto, Escultura, Escurel, Espano, Escacinas, Encinas, and so on and so forth.

The Spanish friars at that time wanted to closely monitor the faithful with regard to their obligations, especially the *obras pias* or obligatory service labor and other tributes the Church collected.

It was also a period of progress when the town's old port was a stopover for trading galleons. Until today, the ruins of several *almasin*, buying stations of hemp and copra bound for Mexico and the United States, dot the northeastern stretch of the old port.



THE OLD town hall of Gubat, Sorsogon, is well preserved but is now used as an extension campus of the Bicol University.
JUAN ESCANDOR JR./PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The vibrant hemp trading of the town extended up to the late 1920s, when demand surged with the rapid growth of the maritime industry worldwide.

The *municipio*, old town hall, that once housed the offices of town officials, is well preserved but is now used as an extension campus of the Bicol University.

Alongside it are the remnants of a century-old school building constructed from coral slabs gelled by lime and honey into a massive stone structure. The building was also used by the Gubat Central School until the late 1970s.

Gubat's center and original streets since the Spanish period are still intact. The church, market, *almasin*, park and school are strategically clustered.

Dangkalan Beach

Driving along the road that bends with the coastline going to the Rizal Beach, one is greeted by a 5-km shoreline of white sand shaped like a horseshoe and facing the San Bernardino Strait, an international seaway.

Late summer afternoons are a perfect time to explore the Dangkalan Beach at the edge of the town, where the ruins of the pier jut the horizon with a crawling thicket of second-growth mangroves. The pier was a project of the late President Ramon Magsaysay who inaugurated it in 1958.

Strong waves in 1960 crushed the facility before it could be operated. Old-timers believe that it was wrongly oriented against the tide. Its ruins notwithstanding, the collapsed pier has assumed aesthetic features peculiar to the beach setting, with volcanic boulders strewn about by waves in the waterfront.

The perfect view of the twin-peaked Bulusan Volcano from the Dangkalan Beach evokes contemplation. From dusk to dawn, the lights of hotels shimmer in the gentle waves from the adjacent Rizal Beach.

Unlike most public beaches in the country, the Dangkalan does not have garbage piles lying around. The cleanliness of the surrounding and the community-initiated reforestation of mangroves speak of a high level of ecological awareness of the residents.

Market center

Gubat is the market [illegible]ite surrounding towns -P[illegible]az, Barcelona and Bulusan. Fresh marine products abound in the wet market late in the afternoon.

The town is an hour's drive from a lake in the middle of the active Bulusan volcano. The lake is also known for its invisible water outlets and giant ferns.

In the old town of Barcelona, a 16th-century Baroque church has a maze of tunnels underneath, leading down the shores where the ruins of two Spanish-period structures still stand. From here, one can reach different hot and cold springs around the Bulusan volcano.

The more adventurous can discover and explore hidden caves in Prieto Diaz.

Most Gubatnon middle-class families with foreign connection and kinship prefer Gubat for its idyllic nature that makes it a perfect vacation spot by the sea. The tropical weather favors the elderly.

Respect and care for the elderly are centuries-old, community-revered values rooted from closely knit family ties. Here, life goes on being enjoyable even in old age where every clan member pays homage to the most elderly during reunions.

History seals war tunnel

By Shiela Mores, Emelyn Lomerio and Xuden Olfato
Contributors

WITH tall grass covering its entrance and only two of the Stations of the Cross remaining at its western side, the San Lorenzo Ruiz Tunnel-Shrine is a picture of historical obscurity at the back of the Bicol University's Institute of Physical Education in Barangay Ulag, Daraga, Albay.

Unknown to many people, the tunnel, located just beneath a hill, once served as an arms depot and sanctuary for wounded Japanese soldiers, according to Lucio Guadalupe, 85, a former guerrilla who served as a cook for the occupation forces during the Second World War.

After the Japanese left, the tunnel became a place for prayer and meditation.

Tunnel

Separated from the university proper by a river, the 100-meter structure, shaped like an inverted "L," has a secret gateway at its eastern part. It was originally planned to be a three-directional structure, pointing to the north, east and west. The eastern part, however, was not completed and is now filled with soil from bombardments during the war.

Doors at the entrance are soaked in stagnant water. Rays of sunlight from the outside pierce the old images of saints at the center of the tunnel.

Bloody construction

Guadalupe, or Lolo Lucio, recalled that during the horrifying days when the Japanese forces invaded Legazpi City on Dec. 25, 1941, the local residents fled to the mountains. The Japanese Imperial Army then decided to construct a tunnel to serve as their central office and arsenal.

"The almost 50 laborers who constructed the tunnel were beheaded," Lolo Lucio said. They were burned in a grave they themselves dug out, he said. Some of the victims' ashes were placed in a matchbox and sent to their families.

At the back of the BU grandstand is the graveyard of the laborers.

With the help of his Japanese friend, Lolo Lucio said he was able to survive the massacre and later rejoined his guerrilla comrades.

The Japanese soldiers stayed in the tunnel for only three months and were forced to leave when the Americans came.

Obscurity

In 1972, a man, identified as a certain Vicente Bitancur, cleaned the area and stayed inside the tunnel for several years. The local residents chose to ignore him, thinking he was insane. No one could go near the tunnel because the man would send them away.

Since then, the tunnel had been known to be a place of fear and violence. Whatever happened to Bitancur, no one knew.

In 1980, Prof. Carmencita Guillermo of the BU College of Arts and Sciences became interested in reviving the tunnel. Her move was also prompted by reports that fraternities were using the place for violent initiation rites and that rape and other unreported crimes were being committed there.

Guillermo wanted to convert the tunnel into a place for prayer and tourist destination, inspired by its tranquility and the martyrdom of the Bicolano laborers.

Makeover

She sought the help of her social work students and the Albay Senior Citizens Group, headed by her father, Pedro Guillermo, a former member of the defunct Philippine Constabulary.

They cleared the tunnel and its surroundings, planted trees and put up images of St. Lorenzo Ruiz and the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Regular Masses were held on Fridays. Guillermo also held catechism classes, feeding program and pranic healing in the tunnel.

The place soon became a favorite destination of residents, but the makeover program stopped due to lack of funds. Guillermo asked Noriko Okada, a Japanese classmate of hers at the Philippine Women's University in Manila, for help.

Okada responded by providing her the names of Japanese agencies and institutions that could extend financial assistance. A group of about 14 Japanese even visited the tunnel sometime in 1993 and expressed willingness to support the program.

Dream dies

Guillermo also sought funds from the BU, as well as the right to promote and develop the tunnel, but the university turned this down.

Guillermo's efforts could have started generating historical—and spiritual—interest in the tunnel, but she died on June 29, 1994.

Since then, nobody has continued Guillermo's program. The place is now history's graveyard.

THE AUTHORS are Mass Communications students of the Bicol University

Aksyon sa Tunay na Buhay

VRB Chairman, July 2002 - Jan 2004

Governor ng Cavite, 1998 - June 2001

Chairman ng Region IV Peace and Order Council,1998-2001

Co-Chairman ng CaLaBaRZon Development Council, 1998-2001

Founder ng Cavite Rescue 161 Emergency Response Unit

Vice Governor ng Cavite, 1995 - 1998

Chairman ng Cavite Multi-Agency Anti-Drug Abuse Council , 1995-1998

Medal of Valor at International Award of Honor galing sa InternationalNarcotics Enforcement Officers Association na ibinigay sa Albany, New York, USA

International Recognition for Efforts Against Piracy galing sa Motion Picture Association of America at Motion Picture Association International, na ibinigay sa Hollywood, USA

Recognition for Outstanding Achievements in the Campaign Against Child Labor galing sa United Nations International Childrens Economic Fund (UNICEF) at National Economic and Development Authority(NEDA)

Huwarang Lingkod Bayan galing sa Consumer's League of the Philippines

Recognition for Excellence Worthy of Emulation galing sa Office of the President

Recognition for Most Outstanding Peace & Order Efforts in the Philippines galing sa Office of the President

Most Outstanding Governor galing sa Philippine National Police

Most Outstanding Governor galing sa Department of Health

One of the Most Outstanding Vice Governors galing sa League of Vice Governors of the Philippines

Recognition for Outstanding Achievements in the Anti-Drug Campaign galing sa Philippine National Police Narcotics Command

Recognition for Excellence, galing sa DECS

BONG REVILLA
SENADOR

Paid for by FRIENDS OF BONG REVILLA
105 EDSA, Mandaluyong City, MM

Comelec credible, but not Abalos

From page A1

"As long as the institution enjoys that acceptance, I feel gratified. It does not matter how they look at me. I am more concerned about the institution than for myself," he said.

He said his ratings might have dropped because of his clashes with other personalities but added that as long as it bolstered the people's faith in the institution, he was happy.

Past Comelec heads

Most of the previous Comelec heads scored better than Abalos, according to the SWS.

Abalos' predecessor, Afredo Benipayo, also fared poorly in SWS surveys with a net trust of -4 in March 2001, +3 in July 2001 and a net satisfaction rating of -14 in June 2002. Abalos was appointed to the Comelec on June 5, 2002. He previously headed the Metro Manila Development Authority.

Harriet Demetriou had generally favorable ratings of +36 in March 1999, +21 in October 2000 and +16 in December 2000, according to SWS.

The polling outfit described the ratings of Bernardo Pardo as "mediocre." He netted a low of -4 to a high of "only" +18 in seven surveys from 1995 to 1998.

Christian Monsod, however, did "consistently well." He had net satisfaction ratings of +32 in April 1992 and +33 in December 1994.

The SWS surveys on the Comelec and its heads were initiated by the polling outfit itself and were not sponsored by anyone.

Negative in major areas

The April survey found public trust in Abalos was negative in "all major areas and classes." Among the socioeconomic classes, the ACD class did not trust Abalos the most. Forty-two percent of respondents belonging to the ABC class distrusted Abalos, while 31 percent of them trusted him. Thirty-five percent of those belonging to the D class and 34 percent in the E class distrusted Abalos.

ABALOS: I'm more concerned with the institution.

Among the regions, Metro Manila registered the highest level of distrust (40 percent) in Abalos.

The March survey found public trust in the Comelec "positive" in all major areas and social classes. But residents of Metro Manila and the middle-to-upper classes gave the poll body "well below average" figures.

In a statement, SWS head Mahar Mangahas said the surveys had margin of errors of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Suspension of election

Padded voters' lists are among the problems confronting Comelec personnel.

Citing lack of time in coming up with the corrected version of the certificate of voters' list (CVL), the Comelec officer in Calamba, yesterday recommended the suspension of elections in the city until the poll body came up with a "cleansed" CVL.

Acting elections officer Randy Banzuela admitted that his people could not finish the corrected CVL even until Friday, or three days before the elections.

In a letter he sent to Virgilio Garciliano, Comelec commissioner in charge for Southern Tagalog, Banzuela said that because of the "errors, discrepancies and (displacement) of voters to other precincts" his office could not make the necessary corrections on Thursday, the Comelec's deadline.

Lost ballots

The Comelec yesterday said that it lost 2,600, not 2,500, ballots inside the tightly guarded National Printing Office where most of the election materials are being printed.

Abalos said the theft could be an "inside job," noting that no one would be able to enter the NPO because of its tight security.

Abalos said the Comelec had instituted measures to counter the loss of the ballots, including the issuance of an advisory for the city treasurers concerned.

In the "public advisory" issued yesterday, the commission said that most of the missing ballots—1,300 or 13 booklets—were intended for distribution in the 2nd district of Makati City while another thousand ballots were for use in the 1st district of Pasig City.

Two hundred missing ballots were supposed to be used in the 1st and 2nd districts of Pasay while another hundred was supposed to be delivered to Marawi City.

Hidden ballot boxes

In Casiguran, Aurora, police discovered 65 ballot boxes hidden inside an ice plant.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, Central Luzon police director, said 53 of the boxes were intended for polling precincts in Casiguran town while the rest were reserved for the local board of canvassers.

Treasurer Herminigildo Mijares said he had authorized the safekeeping of the boxes inside the ice plant, according to Querol.

Quoting Mijares, the official said the boxes were stocked there shortly after they were washed in a nearby river on April 26. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Madrid scenario feared, says De Venecia

From page A1

in the occupation of Iraq like Ms Macapagal.

De Venecia said that "local extremists under foreign principals" were behind the terror threats.

Early this week, police intelligence officers arrested a top leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asia-based terrorist group behind the bloody Rizal Day bombings in 2000, a police official yesterday said.

The police official identified the JI leader as Abdullah, a finance officer who provides funds to local terrorist groups.

"He's a very big catch," a police official told the INQUIRER. Abdullah will be presented at a press conference in Camp Aguinaldo this morning.

Pullout from Iraq

Pre-election surveys showed that Aznar's party was poised to win but it lost on election day due to its handling of the investigation of the bombings, which killed nearly 200 people. Aznar blamed Basque nationalists for the bombings although the attacks were claimed by Islamic militants with ties to the al-Qaida.

Honoring his campaign promise, the new Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero has decided to withdraw some 1,300 troops from the US-led occupation force in Iraq.

If De Venecia's analysis were true, this would be the second time that terrorists would attempt to bring down a major US ally by trying to influence elections through bombing attacks.

No Miting de Avance?

De Venecia said the threats had even led the administration party to rethink its plans to hold a *miting de avance* before the May 10 elections.

"It's clear that we will win so why would you expose yourself to a possible bomb attack?" De Venecia said. "There's no firm decision yet because these threats are genuine."

Ms Macapagal also canceled recently a campaign sortie in Mindanao due to alleged terrorist threats.

De Venecia said the people should be on guard and be vigilant.

"We must expose the extremists from both sides of the political spectrum in order to stop a Madrid-type bombing," he said.

The government on Tuesday announced that it was deploying 17,000 troops in Metro Manila to prevent a terrorist bombing blitz. Members of the bandit group Abu Sayyaf are allegedly in Manila to bomb vital government installations.

But the Philippine National Police said the Abu Sayyaf threat had been contained but authorities were still worried about other groups that might take advantage of the situation and stage terrorist attacks to disrupt the May 10 elections.

The PNP is on guard against groups like the Yellow-Red Overseas Organization, New People's Army, and even those that might be linked to certain political personalities, said Director Avelino Razon, PNP director for operations.

Razon acknowledged the possibility that any of these groups might conduct a terrorist activity and mislead the public into believing that the attack was the work of the Abu Sayyaf.

The Yellow-Red Overseas Organization, a South Korea-based terrorist group, had threatened to stage bombings in the Philippines and other staunch allies of the United States.

10 terrorists on the loose

The Armed Forces announced Tuesday that there were about 10 suspected terrorists still on the loose in Metro Manila. The suspects are believed to be associated with the five alleged Abu Sayyaf members authorities had arrested in separate operations.

"It appears there is a move to perpetrate terrorist acts before or during elections," Razon told reporters.

Two suspected Abu Sayyaf members, who were allegedly about to bomb the Commission on Elections buildings in Manila last Saturday, had been arrested.

The arrest came less than a week after authorities arrested 12 men in Culiat, a Muslim enclave in Quezon City. Three of the suspects allegedly helped raise funds for the bandit group through drug trafficking.

"We were able to thwart several instances which could have become incidents of terrorism," Razon said.

Besides the Abu Sayyaf, he said authorities were looking for JI operatives who might be planning to bomb targets in Metro Manila and other key areas nationwide.

Brown Batik operation

Members of Task Force Sanglahi, the Philippine National Police's antiterrorism unit, arrested Abdullah through its "Brown Batik" operation.

The intelligence project also allowed the PNP to determine how the JI was funding the activities of groups such as the Abu Sayyaf.

Abdullah, the police official said, was linked to Taufek Refke, the JI finance liaison officer whom police arrested late last year in Mindanao.

Around 40 suspected JI operatives are believed to be scattered in Mindanao, particularly in Mt. Cararao near the Lanao area.

Authorities said these suspects were being coddled by some members of the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Police and military officials admitted they could not just storm Mt. Cacarao, an MILF stronghold, for fear that Moro rebels might consider the operation a violation of the ongoing peace negotiations.

DOJ files charges

The Department of Justice has charged in court two suspected Abu Sayyaf members who allegedly planned to bomb the Comelec building in Manila.

The charges came after the DOJ filed 52 counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention against five of the six suspected Abu Sayyaf members, including actor Robin Padilla's former driver, who were arrested in March for allegedly planning to conduct a bombing blitz in the capital.

The DOJ yesterday charged Aljie A. Sama and Quirino B. Lumenda with illegal possession of explosives and violating the election gun ban after they were caught with explosives near the Comelec building on Saturday night, State Prosecutor Misael Ladaga said.

The suspects had waived their rights for a preliminary investigation during the inquest proceedings at the DOJ. The charges were filed before Manila courts, Ladaga said.

He said the police were now hunting down the suspects' four accomplices, including one Ben Saudi Lumenda, who is reportedly running for councilor in Taguig.

Ladaga said the two accused admitted that they were caught with the explosives and that they implicated Lumenda in the plot.

Ladaga said that bomb paraphernalia confiscated from the suspects included a 60 mm mortar that was going to be used as the main explosive charge.

Last week, the DOJ also filed charges against the five suspected Abu Sayyaf members for the kidnapping of 52 students in Sumisip, Basilan, in 2000.

Robin Padilla's driver

Radzman Sangkula Jul, Mavin Rueca, Abdusaid Sanjeng Lim, Redendo Cain Dellosa and Walter Villanueva, were charged in the Pasig City Regional Trial Court on Friday, said State Prosecutor Nestor Lazaro.

Villanueva was actor Padilla's former driver. Dellosa has been accused of bombing the Superferry 14 in Manila Bay on Feb. 27 that left more than 100 passengers dead.

The accused were arrested in late March, together with ranking Abu Sayyaf member Alhamzer Manatad Limbong, alias Kosovo, for allegedly planning to bomb vital installations in Metro Manila.

Time Magazine: Filipinos still waiting for real thing

From page A1

crowds without paying the hoi polloi to attend."

Time said it was "tempting" to view the May 10 election "as a contest between a not-too-popular President with a Ph.D. in economics and a popcorn idol who dropped out of eighth grade."

"But the subtext of the Poe campaign runs deep," it said. "His real message is that [Ms Macapagal] can't solve the Philippines' woes because the problem resides in her and her whole class of cynical, overeducated, profiteering, wouldn't-know-a-slum-if-their-housemaid-invited-them-to-hers supporters."

It added: "The country, according to Poe, needs more than a President with brains or experience. It needs a savior. So far, Poe's messiah act appears to be playing quite well: Surveys say the race is neck and neck."

Time also said a Poe victory could herald a return to the "Marcos and Estrada cronyism" and lead to a new political crisis in the Philippines, possibly Edsa IV.

Predictably, Malacañang picked up this line and made it into an official press statement yesterday.

Cover girl

Time had Ms Macapagal on its cover three times before—in January 2001 after she was installed President, in 2002 when she was dubbed "Iron Lady," and after the failed mutiny of July 27, 2003.

This time, it featured on its cover blown-up photos of her and her primary rival.

"Is she the one?" the magazine said. "Will Filipinos vote for their brainy but aloof President—or anoint a popular movie star who offers nothing less than salvation?"

Time said Poe was likely to be supported by the poor constituting about 91 percent of the population, and Ms Macapagal, mainly by the "richer, but tiny, A, B and C classes."

It said the upper classes were dominant in Manila, "and it's hard to find an office worker or professional who doesn't show an instant disdain for Poe and a visceral disgust when [Joseph] Estrada's name comes up."

"They say that if Poe wins, it will inevitably lead to Edsa IV—a toppling from the presidency, a public humiliation, a political crucifixion."

Spam factory

Time compared the qualifications and campaign strategies of the two contenders.

It noted how Ms Macapagal's campaign dispensed largesse, such as when she gave 600,000 people three-month street-sweeping jobs last month, expanded health coverage to 5 million Filipinos, and handed a P3-million check to a mayor complaining about an unfinished road in his town.

"By shoveling out pork like a Spam factory, [Ms Macapagal] is allowing herself to be branded as one of the old-time pols—the very class from which Poe is promising to save the Philippines," the magazine said, adding:

"The overall message is that she's already President and has the experience to tackle the Philippines' almost endless challenges: poverty, a perpetually under-performing economy, Muslim militancy and Asia's longest-running communist insurgency."

In Time's estimation, Ms Macapagal is "a commanding figure but lacks the common touch," while Poe "seduces the masses with sheer star quality," an actor "performing from his own script."

"In the movies, Poe often portrays the strong-but-silent type, and that's his campaign strategy, too."

Wary vs combative

Time said that as a presidential candidate, Poe was "indistinguishable from cinematic redeemer, offering nothing more—and nothing less—than virtue in a world sunk in corruption and despair."

In an interview, Poe "sits down warily and responds to questions with a kindly nod, but his answers are single sentences, sometimes just fragments," the magazine said.

It cited Spaeth's ambush interview in a schoolroom in Candon, Ilocos Sur. To the question of how his campaign was going, Poe said: "So far so good." Will he win? "Hopefully." What's the first thing he will do if elected? "Address corruption." The second? "Total transparency."

In contrast, Time said, Ms Macapagal had no hesitation about sitting down with a journalist:

"[She] is combative, determined and self-assured to an almost disturbing degree. During a 20-minute interview, she talks non-stop with absolutely no body language: her legs remain crossed, her hands folded in her lap. Her mouth works incessantly, but she simultaneously reads a briefing paper—seemingly absorbing details—and yet also manages to maintain periodic, polite eye contact."

Fil-Am general's stars shine

From page A1

Taguba, vice director of the Army Staff, Office of the Chief of Staff, US Army, traces his roots to Sampaloc, Manila, where he was born in 1950 to deeply religious parents, both natives of the northern province of Cagayan.

He is the second Filipino-American general in the US Army, after Maj. Gen. Edward Soriano.

According to Peter Boylan of the Honolulu Advertiser, Taguba's 53-page report "portrays an institution out of control, run by soldiers who had little or no training in operating a prison."

In his report, Taguba recommended that seven Army officers involved in the abuses be reprimanded and punished. Two of those officers have since been relieved.

Boylan said Taguba's mother was proud of her son.

"I am proud but I am scared, too, you know," he quoted Maria Taguba as saying. "You don't know what will happen, but it is OK, that is his job. Any mother is always scared."

Taguba was 11 when his family moved to Hawaii in the United States. His father, Tomas, worked in the US Army as a sergeant and has since retired; his mother, Maria, stayed home to raise him and his two brothers and five sisters with the help of his grandmother.

The young Antonio attended the Leilehua High School in Hawaii and was drawn to the military because of his father's influence.

After graduation in 1968, he enrolled at the Idaho State University where he acquired a degree in history in 1972. He joined the Army shortly afterward and rose through the ranks.

He is married with two children.

'Sadistic and wanton'

Taguba's internal report, first obtained and written about by The New Yorker magazine, detailed the "sadistic, blatant, and wanton criminal abuses" committed by US Army personnel inside the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

According to The New Yorker's Seymour M. Hersh, the report "recounts a stunning list of systemic and illegal abuse of detainees" committed by the 372nd Military Police Company and members of the American intelligence community.

The international media have published pictures of US soldiers posing with Iraqi detainees forced into humiliating situations.

The abuses include a long list of physical torture methods and sexual abuse of Iraqi prisoners, including sodomy with broom sticks and the use of military dogs to frighten prisoners.

Hersh said Taguba's report "amounts to an unsparing study of collective wrongdoing and failure of Army leadership at the highest level."

He said Taguba "saved his harshest words for the military-intelligence officers and private contractors" assigned to Abu Ghraib.

Childhood memories

"I had an absentee father who was in the Army, but I had an enjoyable childhood," Taguba told AsianWeek magazine in 1997.

In the magazine article, he spoke of fond memories of attending fiestas while visiting relatives in Cagayan.

"It was part of our culture to respect elders, give thanks to the Lord, to be forgiving and be supportive of your family. I learned those early in life," he said.

Taguba graduated from various military training schools, including the US Army Command and General Staff College, the College of Naval Command and Staff, and the US Army War College.

He holds master's degrees in public administration and international relations from the Webster University and the Salve Regina University, respectively. He also obtained another master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the US College of Naval Command and Staff.

Career highlights

The highlights of Taguba's military career include his command of a tank company of an armored division in Germany in 1982, and his designation as battalion commander and later executive officer of US-Korean forces in Korea in 1991.

In 1997 and 1998, he became special assistant to the commanding general of the US Army Forces Command in Fort McPherson, Georgia, and chief of staff, US Army Reserve Command.

In 2000, he was designated commanding general of the US Army Community and Family Support Center based in Alexandria, Virginia, before his present designation.

Taguba has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal.

FOUR DIGIT
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METRO
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MEGALOTTO 6/45
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Angping withdraws from race

By Tarra Quismundo

SENSING disqualification, incumbent Manila 3rd District Rep. Harry Angping pulled out from the congressional race six days before the polls.

Angping, chair of Nationalist People's Coalition Manila which is allied with the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, withdrew his candidacy on Tuesday by going to the Commission on Elections National Capital Region.

Beating the draw

"I had to withdraw. They were coming out with a decision disqualifying me. I beat them to the draw," said Angping in a phone interview yesterday afternoon.

A barangay chairman earlier filed a petition to disqualify Angping. The petitioner said Angping was not a Filipino citizen.

Angping said he heard rumors that the Comelec First Division, where his case had been tried, was coming out with a decision unfavorable to him.

Promulgation canceled

Yesterday, Angping's counsel managed to convince the Comelec to stop the promulgation set for that morning.

"I already withdrew, so that makes the case already moot and academic," said Angping.

"If I am disqualified, I can no longer be substituted," said Angping, who had once prided on being the first Manila representative with Chinese blood.

Wife as substitute

His wife, Maria Zenaida, filed a certificate of candidacy at the Comelec after Angping filed his withdrawal.

The 1970 Ms. Caltex and a housewife with a degree in foreign service from then Maryknoll College would be substituting Angping in Manila's KNP slate.

However, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said that Angping was indeed already disqualified for being an alien.

Angping's challenger, councilor Miles Roces of the Liberal Party, welcomed the incumbent's withdrawal.

Posting of CVLs a waiting game

MAY BEAUTIES
This year's sagala in Manila features Korean Hee-Jung Lee (left) as La Flor de Manila; Jaira Janiero (right) as Rosa Mystica; and Kate Baesa (center) as Reina de las Flores. NOEL DAYANG

By Tarra Quismundo, Margaux Ortiz, Tina Santos and Luige del Puerto

THE DELAYED posting of the Computerized Voters' Lists or CVLs in many areas of Metro Manila has turned into a virtual waiting game between public school teachers and election officers.

So far, only Manila's second district (Tondo), Muntinlupa City, Las Piñas City and Marikina City have reported completing the distribution of CVLs.

Nearby Antipolo has also reported distributing all the voters lists to the different precincts in the city.

Still printing

Elections officials in Quezon City, Taguig, Makati City, San Juan and Manila's District 1 (Tondo) and 6 (Sta. Ana, Sta. Mesa, Pandacan) said they were still printing the CVLs but expect these to be distributed on Saturday.

Makati election assistant Merlyn Correo said the printing of the lists was delayed because of the late delivery of printer ink.

Correo also lamented that the Makati Comelec office only has one printer.

The CVLs in the cities of Pasay and Parañaque are expected to be ready for distribution to polling precincts today.

Not yet distributed

Meanwhile, Manila's Districts 3 (Sta. Cruz and Binondo), 4 (Sampaloc), and 5 (Malate, Paco, and San Andres) have already finished printing out their voters lists but have yet to distribute these.

"They have been ready since April 25, we are just waiting for the principals to get the lists here," said Comelec district 5 election officer Raymond Teaño.

Meanwhile, distribution for District 4 is supposed to start today. District 3 is set to give out the CVLs on Saturday, May 8.

On the other hand, the principals themselves are waiting for Comelec to bring the CVLs to the schools which have been designated as polling places for May 10.

Instructions unclear

"There's no clear instruction whether they should get (the lists) or they would be delivered. So the principals are waiting," said Manila Public School Teachers Association president Benjie Valbuena.

Valbuena had warned that the delay in the posting of CVLs in the city's precincts might cause chaos on election day, as voters would be rushing to check their names on the list.

He expressed fears that when complaints of missing names arise on May 10, the Comelec would not have time to correct any possible mistakes.

Mad rush

Teaño stressed that election rules stated that CVLs must be posted on polling precincts 15 days before the elections to give voters a chance to check their names and report mistakes to the poll body for correction.

"Many people will be rushing again come election time. It will be chaotic," said a high school teacher from the Ramon Magsaysay High School, recalling her experience in past elections. *With Mel Lawrence de Guzman and Jaybelyn Caldez*

Anjo: Politics not comedy

COMEDIAN turned politician Anjo Yllana yesterday said he was serious in seeking the vice mayoral seat in Parañaque City to help develop the locality.

In a statement, Yllana said he may be considered one of the country's top comedians, but he is a serious politician.

Currently a councilor, the television personality said his policy of governance would revolve around "SEED," which stands for Sports, Education, Enlightenment and Drug-Free Parañaque.

Under his sports program, a mini-Olympics will be held to unite the city's young people.

Yllana said he would continue his scholarship grant under the "Tikboy Foundation," which has already helped 4,000 students.

He said he would also work for the proper lighting of all roads in the city.

He stressed that if he wins as vice mayor, he would revive the Parañaque Anti-Drug Council.

He said the PADC failed to do its job in the past six years, allowing the proliferation of illegal drugs in the city.

"This was my frustration as a councilor. But I couldn't do anything because I couldn't bypass the other PADC officials," he said.

He is running against Generoso Puzon of the KNP and Beng Amurao of the Lakas-CMD.

Binay confident track record will seal his reelection

By Margaux Ortiz

MAKATI Mayor Jejomar Binay's responsibilities as campaign manager of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino may have been keeping him from campaigning full-blast in the city, but he is "confident that his 18-year record will decide the elections."

Binay's spokesperson Joey Salgado said Binay has been dividing his time between going to KNP sorties all over the country and campaigning for his reelection.

Salgado said that during the last three years, the Makati government has focused on and successfully developed information technology in the city.

Through computers and the Internet, Salgado said the city government has become connected to schools and barangays.

He said the city government also takes pride in its basic services, especially its yellow card program.

He added that contrary to the claims of Makati Councilor Oscar Ibay, who is running against Binay, it was never the intention of the yellow card program to provide free medicine and medical equipment to beneficiaries.

Instead, the program provides subsidized hospitalization and medical services at the Makati Medical Center to residents with monthly incomes not exceeding P10,000, Salgado said.

He also said that under Binay, Makati City remained the richest local government in Metro Manila for two years, according to the Department of Finance.

The department said Makati collected P6.420 billion in 2003, out-pacing other bigger LGUs in Metro Manila like Quezon City and Manila.

Salgado said that if Binay wins, he will focus on the 10-year revitalization plan for the city.

The plan includes securing Makati's position as the premier financial center in the country, expanding economic opportunities to barangays, and addressing traffic and housing concerns.

Comelec delays disqualification ruling

On Target
Ramon Tulfo

WITH five days to go before the election, the Commission on Elections has yet to act on at least two disqualification cases.

One case concerns that of Mayor Marino Morales of Mabalacat, Pampanga, who's running for the fourth consecutive term.

The other pertains to former Quezon City Congressman Dante Liban, who's running again after an absence of one term but who shouldn't because he was allegedly kicked out from government service by an anti-graft commission.

The Comelec seems to be foot-dragging on both cases.

* * *

The case against Mayor Morales is unique. He's probably the only candidate for an elective post who's running for four consecutive terms. Morales had been elected mayor of his town for three consecutive terms, and is barred by the Constitution from running for a fourth term.

All elective officials, with the exception of the President, vice president and senators, can only run for three consecutive terms. The President and vice president are limited to only one term, while senators can run for two consecutive terms.

Why doesn't the poll body act on the disqualification case against Morales before a constitutional crisis erupts in Mabalacat?

I called Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos about Morales' disqualification case. Saying he didn't know there was such a case, he said he would ask his subordinates to explain the delay in the decision.

I heard one of the Comelec commissioners is hiding the Morales case folder. Why?

* * *

The case against Dante Liban, who wants to regain his seat as representative of the Quezon City second district, has been filed by a concerned citizen, Heber Bartolome of 170 Banlat Rd., Tandang Sora.

Bartolome says Liban has been disqualified from running for any public office because he was administratively convicted by the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) for violation of the anti-graft law.

Liban, according to Bartolome, was kicked out as director-general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) for allegedly selling blank grading sheets of artists seeking jobs overseas.

The PAGC's administrative conviction of Liban was affirmed by the Office of the President.

* * *

I've had a high regard for Roilo Golez since he was postmaster-general during the Marcos era.

I've followed closely the colorful public service career of this graduate of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis—from congressman of Parañaque to National Security Adviser. Truly an officer and a gentleman.

But if that story about an incident in Parañaque last Tuesday is true, I take back my description of him as a gentleman.

According to reports reaching this writer, Golez doesn't seem to fight fair in the political arena.

Golez is running for congressman in Parañaque against Mayor Joey Marquez, who is on his last term as mayor.

The story goes that the caravans of Marquez and Golez met on a Parañaque street. There was heckling and loud playing of jingles on the public address system by both sides.

Golez's driver, Ador Campos, allegedly got his M-16 Armalite rifle and poked it at Raul Bellosos, a supporter of Marquez.

Campos was promptly arrested by the police and detained.

Golez, reports said, went to the police precinct where Campos was detained and demanded his driver's release.

"*Kapag hindi n'yo ni-release ang bata ko, patatanggal ko kayong lahat* (If you don't release my man, I would have everyone of you fired)," Golez was quoted as telling the cops holding Campos.

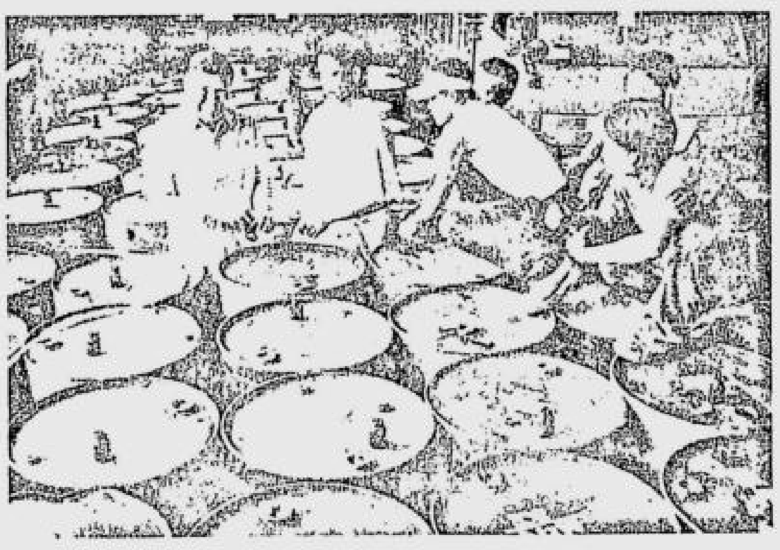
I wanted to get Golez's side on the incident but I couldn't reach him.

* * *

Independent dealers of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) complain of being harassed by the police on orders from major petroleum companies.

Members of the LPG Marketers Association (LPGMA) and LPG Refillers Association (LPGRA) said they're being prevented from offering cheaper but quality household LPG to consumers.

If the claim of those independent LPG retailers is true, their right to free enterprise is being violated.



AN OFFICER of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency examines the contents of a drum containing chemicals that can be used in the manufacturing of dangerous drugs. The warehouse is located at Barangay Parada, Valenzuela City. JOAN BONDOC

PDEA eyes legitimate firms in drug trade

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

THEY may have the necessary permits from the government, but even legal chemical distributors could be diverting shabu ingredients to drug laboratories.

In a statement yesterday, Director Anselmo Avenido, of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, said they would start monitoring firms that handle chemicals to see if these were diverting legally imported precursors and chemicals to persons manufacturing dangerous drugs.

Beginning Tuesday, the PDEA searched three warehouses in Marikina, Caloocan and Valenzuela, where they found thousands of liters of acetone, methyl ethyl ketone and toluene.

These chemicals can be used in crystallizing shabu and are included in the PDEA's list of 23 chemicals which need strict control.

During the raid, the warehouses of FG Trading Corp. on Roxas Street, San Roque, Marikina City; R&D Warehouse at the corner of 9th Avenue and 7th Street, Caloocan City; and that of the A-Grace Enterprises at the corner of Mars and Santiago Streets in Valenzuela City, failed to present permits to possess and sell the confiscated chemicals, said PDEA spokesperson Bernie Bondoc.

He however clarified that the PDEA had not yet established whether the three warehouses had been supplying chemicals to shabu factories.

METROBRIEFS

Shot and killed

A BOY who ran after two men who held up a jeepney in Pasig City the other night was shot dead by one of the suspects. Luisito Pajarlo, 17, of Sitio Wawa, Rodriguez, Rizal, was shot in the body and died on the way to the hospital, police said. Investigation showed that Pajarlo and 11 other jeepney passengers were held up by the suspects along Marcos Highway in Pasig around 8 p.m. Instead of staying put or calling the police, Pajarlo ran after the suspects, prompting one of them to shoot him, police said. *Michael Jobert Navallo*

Rap vs Kabayan

THE FAMILY of a boy who was born without arms and legs has filed a complaint before the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas against vice presidential candidate Noli de Castro for allegedly exploiting their son in his TV program. The boy, Peter John Barcelona, 13, was featured on "Magandang Gabi Bayan" in 1998 walking, eating and bathing naked, with his genitals exposed. The "humiliating" episode was replayed last February, Nilo Baculo Sr., Barcelona's brother-in-law, said. In his affidavit, Baculo said they had learned donors had given P138,300 for the boy but they did not receive the money. *Margaux Ortiz*

'Halalan 2004'

ABS-CBN will hold a marathon coverage of the election beginning on May 9, with the launch of the Sunday edition of TV Patrol, and end on May 11. The coverage, dubbed as "Halalan 2004," will present a multi-platform coverage that will air simultaneously on ABS-CBN channel 2, ANC cable channel 21, UHF channel Studio 23, and radio station dzMM. The multi-platform coverage seeks to fulfill the needs of a diverse and discerning audience.

PHILIPPINE COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Philcoman sees better governance under GMA

The Philippine Council of Management (Philcoman) foresees better governance under Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo once given a direct fresh mandate by the people in the May 10, 2004 presidential election.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo inducts the officers and members of the board of governors of the Philippine Council of Management (Philcoman). From left: Dante Sy, board member; Bernardino Paco, executive vice-president, Ed Quiocho, vice-president; Emmanuel Noli Santos, emeritus president; Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo; Dr. Nerza A. Rebustes, president; Anne Tan Yee, executive vice-president; Odette Constantino, secretary; Cecilio Arillo, board member. Back: Emmanuel Candido-Soriente-Santos II; VP-youth; Franklin Littaua, Timoteo Acedo, Pedrito Salvador, Manuel Martinez.

"With the people directly empowering GMA as president, she can pursue and implement with vigor her program of government for the next six years – 2004 to 2010 – without the restraints of lobby groups with hidden agenda and sectional interests opposed to the common good and the general welfare," declared Emmanuel Noli T. Santos, emeritus president and spokesman of the Philcoman. "GMA can narrow the gap between the rich and poor by implementing her programs and projects to provide employment, raise standard of living of the poor, promote high level of productivity and performance to support higher wages for the workers."

The Philcoman study figures out that a newly elected President GMA with direct Mandate from the people and freed from pressures of politics can crack down on corruption throughout the government. To begin with, the study suggests that lifestyle checks be conducted on all government officials and personnel who process and sign releases of funds in Cabinet departments, commissions, bureaus, regional, provincial, city, and municipal offices.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Nerva A. Rebustes, Annie Tan Yee, Noli Santos

The Philippine Council of Management, an academe-based organization, is composed of professors of management and top executives of leading corporations. The team that made the post-election study is composed of Emmanuel T. Santos, Ph.D., chairman-CEO of the International Academy of Management and Economics (IAME) and the Institute of Strategic and International Studies; Nerza A. Rebustes, part-time lecturer of Management,author of Methods of Research and NAIA, DHL Collector of Customs; Bernardino C. Paco, president of CDI-Sakata, Inc., Ph.D. candidate; Annie Tan Yee, chairman-CEO of Celestra Motors Corporation (Volvo dealer in 88 ADB Avenue corner Opal, Ortigas Center, Pasig City; Ford and Peugeot dealer in 29 EDSA. Greenhills; Ph.D. candidate; Pedrito Salvador, Ph.D.,former managing director of Philippine-Taiwan Microelectronics; Edmundo Q. Quiocho, Ph.D., former president of Dow Corporation in Hongkong and former vice president of SMC Packaging; and Emmanuel C. Soriente-Santos II, M.S. Development Economics, UP school of economics and IAME president, Anthony A. Cristobal, Ph.D. President, PABE and president & General Manager of A. A. Cristobal Brokerage Corporation, Ma. Lourdes C. Constantino, Field Operations Manager, Organon Philippines, Inc. Henry T. Sy. President-CEO Toyota Ortigas, Timoteo Acedo, Ph.D., President, Meijai Corporation, Cecilio T. Arillo, Ph.D. consultant, Basic Holdings, Franklin Z. Littaua, Ph.D. Bureau of Immigration, Manuel V. Maritnez, Jr., Ph.D. president-ceo, Smart Moves Consultancy, V. Sy, Director, National Tax Research, and Roman G. Leus, Ph.D. Vice President, Security Bank.

Noli Santos, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Nerza A. Rebustes, Annie Tan Yee

Nerza A. Rebustes, Ph.D., Philcoman President said that GMA at this point now knows all the problems – social, economic, political, cultural, security, law and order and technological—and has programs and projects already in place and on-going to solved them.

In fact, many of them are already accomplished, proof that President Macapagal-Arroyo is a great implementor and will end up a great president as she fulfills her vision for the nation Rebustes added.

Philcoman, JPCM-SIFE nationwide network

The Makati City-based Philippine Council of Management has substantially established a nation-wide network with the organization of Philcoman chapters and its Junior Philippine Council of Management-Student in Free Enterprise (SIFE) centers in various regions. SIFE is a U.S.-based organization dedicated to promoting the market economy. This was the report of Atty. Emmanuel Noli Santos, Ph.D., Philcoman emeritus president to the board of governors and annual membership general assembly meeting at the IAME U-TV studio and auditorium in Makati.

The Philcoman chapters and presidents are: Paranaque City chapter, Cong. Eduardo Zialcita, Ph.D. General Rogelio F. Asignado, president, Laguna chapter, Iloilo chapter Bernadette Rosales. president; Bacolod chapter,Abercio Argel, president; Rizal chapter, Rolando B.Velicaria, Ph.D.,Benjamin Santos, Ph.D. president, Valenzuela City chapter president; Cavite chapter Joel Lonzanida, Ph.D. Management, JPCM-SIFE has Prof. Bobby Galindez, Ph.D. as president; with Emmanuel Candido Soriente-Santos II, Philcoman governor and vice-president for youth affairs, in charge of oversight and advisory functions over JPCM-SIFE activities. Executive director for Luzon is Prof. Apolinar Alfonso, Wesleyan University-Philippines in Cabanatuan City; executive director for Visayas; Rafael M. Iriarte, Ph.D.candidate, president, Leyte chapter, Prof. Miriam Batiancila, St. Paul College, Dumaguete City; executive director for Mindanao, Prof. Rowena Cayoca, Ateneo de Davao, Davao City.

Sub-regional councils of JPCM-SIFE, composed of students of business administration and headed by professors of management, are based in Divine Word College, Laoag, Ilocos Norte; Divine Word College,Vigan, Ilocos Sur; Cagayan State University, Tuguegarao City; ABE International College of Business and Accountancy, Tuguegarao City; St. Paul University, Tuguegarao, Cagayan; St Mary's University, Bayombong, Nueva Viscaya; University of Luzon, Dagupan City; Tarlac State University, Tarlac, Tarlac; Systems Plus Computer College, Balibago, Angeles City;Central Luzon State University, Munoz, Nueva Ecija; Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, Cabanatuan City; Wesleyan University-Philippines, Cabanatuan City; St. Paul College, San Miguel, Bulacan; Baliuag University, Baliuag, Bulacan; St. Columban College, Olongapo City; Miriam College, Q.C.; PSBA, Q.C.; San Beda College, Manila; IAME, Makati City; De la Salle University, Dasmarinas, Cavite; Lipa City Colleges, Lipa City; Lucena City Colleges, Lucena City; M.S. Enverga University Foundation, Lucena City; Divine Word College, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro; Garcia College of Technology, Kalibo, Aklan; Filamer Christian College, Roxas City; Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion, Roxas City; Iloilo State College of Fisheries, Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo; St. Paul College of Iloilo City; St. Therese-MTC Colleges, Iloilo City; Central Philippine University, Iloilo City; Colegio del Sagrado Corazon de Jesus, Iloilo City; St. Paul College, Dumaguete City;La Consolacion College, Bacolod City; St. Joseph College of Canlaon City, Negros Oriental;Leyte Institute of Technology, Tacloban City; Western Leyte College of Ormoc City; St. Paul Business School, Marasbaras, Tacloban City; Polytechnic State College of Antique,Sibalom, Antique; Siaton Community College, Negros Oriental; Romblon State College, Odiongan, Romblon; University of San Carlos, Cebu City; Palawan State University, Puerto Princesa City;Ateneo de Davao University, Davao City; Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Zamboanga City; Mindanao State University, General Santos City; Mindanao State University, Marawi City; Notre Dame College of Jolo, Sulu; Notre Dame College of Dadiangas, General Santos City; Notre Dame College, Kidapawan City; Notre Dame College, Tacurong City; Notre Dame College, Cotabato City; St. Vincent College, Dipolog City; Sultan Kudarat Polytechnic State College,South Cotabato.

Santos reported that organizational work of chapters and centers in various regions of the Philippines is continuing.

35th National Management Congress in October 2004

The 35th Philippine National Management Congress will be held in October 2004 at the Manila Hotel with the theme "Looking Ahead to 2010: Expected Accomplishments of the President". This was announced by the Philcoman Vice-President for National Affairs and Congress Chairman, Anthony A.Cristobal, Ph.D.

Leaders from business, economic, church, and academe are being lined up togive their prognosis of the incoming administration of the newly elected president.

Early-bird participants may now register through walk-in, telephone call telefax or e-mail to: The Secretariat, Philippine Council of Management, Noli Santos International Tower, 1061 Metropolitan Avenue junction of Vito Cruz Extension and Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Telephone No. 896-23-28; telefax (632) 896-23-51; e-mail: at Philcoman 2004@yahoo.com.

International Management Congress

Celso P. Templo

The International Management Congress of 2005 will be held in Shangri-la Manila in September 2005 with finance and economic ministers of foreign governments and CEO's of world's leading corporations as speakers.

Managing the International Management Congress 2005 are Bernardino C. Paco,Executive vice president of Philcoman and president CDI-Sakata and Annie Tan Yee, Philcoman Executive vice president and chairman of Celestra Motors Corporation. Managers, entrepreneurs, academic, and business leaders from China, Vietnam, Thailand,South Korea, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, U.S., U.K., Belgium, France, Italy, Switzerland, are some of the early-bird delegates who have signified their intention to attend the conference.

Testimonial Dinner and Induction of New Members

Testimonial dinner and Induction of new member are the activities for May. We will honor Dr. Manuel D. Punzal as the Chairman of CHED for being responsible for most of the changes that CHED is now undergoing. Through his innovative ideas and hard work, he has transformed the Commission on Higher Education into a responsible government agency determined to uplift academic institutions all over the country for the betterment of students and professionals. The affair will be on May 13, 2004 at the Century Park Hotel at 7:00 p.m. Members of the Philippine Council of Management are all invited to attend the affair.

PHILCOMAN EVENTS

Nerza A. Rebustes,Ph.D., president of the Philippine Council of Management, announced the series of seminars on selected subjects designed to sharpen professional management proficiency will be held at the EMBA Hall of IAME. Seminars already held were: "Clearing Thru Customs and Immigration" "Updates On Immigration Rules and Regulations", "Passenger and Baggage Clearance Procedures, Customs Procedures, Documentation Computation of Duties and Taxes".

Incoming seminars are "Exporting on Dangerous Cargoes" by June; seminar on "Leadershipand Governance in July and "Entrepreneurship of SME in September.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASKETBALL: NBA Playoffs - Lakers vs Spurs, Game 2, Western Semifinals; 9 a.m. (r-10 p.m.); Solar Sports; 8 p.m.; IBC 13 - San Antonio struck first, but LA will go out and steal one before the series shifts to the Staples Center.
NBA Greatest Games - Blazers vs. Sixers, Game 5, 1977 Finals; 12 noon.; Solar Sports - After dropping the first two games of the series, determined Portland responded with three straight victories of their own, taking command of the series 3-2. In Game 5, Bill Walton overpowers Julius Erving and Philadelphia with 24 total rebounds.
TENNIS: Telecom Italia Masters; 9 p.m. and 11 p.m.; Star Sports - It's down to the last 16 in this warm-up for the French Open.

Heat oust Hornets; Kings clip Wolves /A23

TRAINER Roach's tapeman prepares Pacquiao for another workout in Las Vegas. DAN TRINIDAD

Pacquiao gets into fighting weight early

No burnout, says Roach

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—There was mixed celebration and awe after Manny Pacquiao, training in a new, steamy gym as temperatures hit 37.8 degrees Celsius here yesterday, made the 126-lb featherweight division limit three days ahead of the scheduled weigh-in.

It was indeed a baffling twist as Pacquiao, still two pounds over when he left Hollywood for this gaming capital Monday, did not work out on Tuesday.

There was a feeling among his handlers that Pacquiao would at best still weigh 128 lb after the two-hour workout at the exclusive IBA gym in middle Las Vegas yesterday.

They were wrong. After the noontime drills that included repeated walks through a "special attack" added to his artillery by trainer Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's wrists dripped freely like a leaking faucet when he took off his sauna suit together with his jogging pants and shirt before riding the scales.

Pacquiao himself had obviously not expected to make the official featherweight limit that early.

To his amazement, he scaled 126 lb after he decided to strip down to his sweaty briefs.

He next told the INQUIRER the surprising result could've been partly caused by the rapid rise in temperature that hit 37.8 degrees Tuesday in this throbbing entertainment city that was carved out of the Nevada desert.

"*Siguro dahil sa sobrang init,*" he mumbled and proceeded to put on dry clothing before riding the rented team van back to the hotel.

Trainer Roach said Pacquiao would return to the gym Wednesday but will skip the scheduled morning jog Thursday as this may no longer be necessary to ensure that the celebrated boxer breezes through the weigh-in scheduled on Friday afternoon.

PACQUIAO/ A22

Asistio grabs share of Aspac golf lead

ASISTIO

JAKARTA—Tonton Asistio grabbed a share of the lead in boys' Class B even as Jayvie Agojo and Wolen Superal stayed within striking distance in their respective divisions Tuesday as the Philippines started strongly in the 25th Asia-Pacific Junior Golf Championships at the Dami Indah Golf and Country Club here.

Asistio carded a one-over-par 73 on nines of 35-38 to join Raghav Wahi of India and Tsai Tsung-yu of Taiwan at the top for players 13-14 years old.

Agojo kicked off her bid in girls' Class A (15-17 years) with a 70 that put her in third place, just two shots behind Lee Il Hee of Korea and a stroke off Tseng Yanie of Taiwan, while Superal was down by four, also in third place, in boys' Class C (11-12).

Superal shot a 76 against the 72 of Thailand's Konlamat and Chiang Yung-hung of Taiwan.

The 54-hole tourney has attracted 170 of the best jungolfers from 12 countries.

The RP girls' team of Agojo, Geleen Handog and Crystal Faith Superal were in fourth place with a 146 total, while Asistio and teammates Gino Bunyi and Mikee Camitoc were a far sixth in the boys' team competition. The Koreans led in both divisions.

Crystal Superal, carding a 76, was running fifth in girls' Class B although she was far off Korean Choi He Yong, who fired a 69.

Pinoy, Taiwanese cue aces gird for Taipei showdown

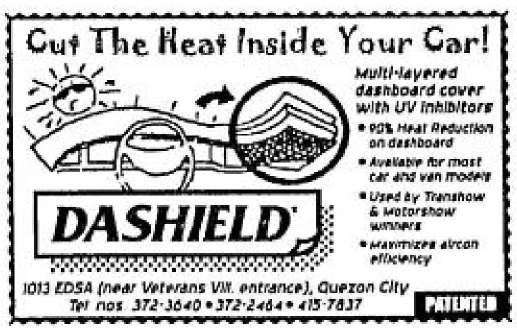
HIS streak broken, Filipino pool legend Efren "Bata" Reyes wants redemption in the inaugural Chinese-Taipei leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour slated May 7-9 at the Leader Creative Center.

Reyes seeks revenge against Taiwanese Yang Ching-sung, who denied him a fourth straight title in the country-hopping circuit with an 11-8 victory in the semifinal of the Hong Kong stop. Yang went on to clinch the crown at the expense of countryman Hsia Hui-kai, 11-9.

Yang, winner of the Singapore leg last year and current world No. 8, and Hsia, former world youth champion, will banner a crack seven-man Chinese-Taipei squad that also includes 1993 and 2000 world champion Chao Fong-pang.

Reyes, champion of the Singapore and Ho Chi Minh City legs this year, leads the order of merit, followed by Chao and Yang.

Joining Reyes in the Philippine squad are world No. 1 Francisco Bustamante, Warren Kiamco, Lee Van Corteza, Leonardo Andam and Antonio Gabica. *Roy Luarca*



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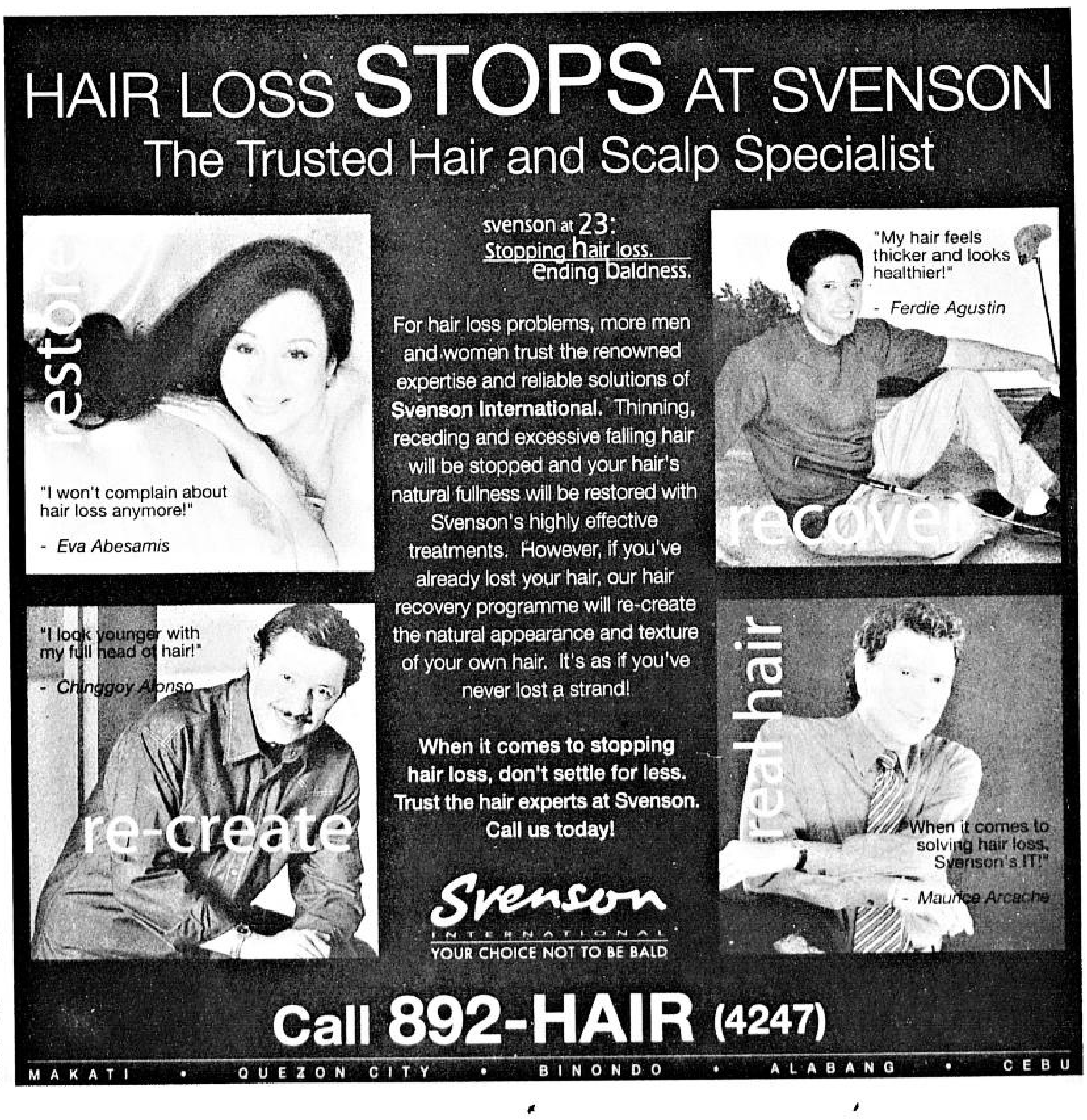

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Hotdogs kick losing habit

GAME TODAY (*Quezon Convention Center, Lucena City*)
5:30 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Talk 'N Text

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS averted a tournament-worst, seven-game losing streak by whipping Shell, 107-91, last night in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Tyrone Washington came up with 21 points and nine rebounds but it was the Hotdogs' local crew which delivered the killer blows as Purefoods snapped a monthlong string of setbacks.

Kerby Raymundo and Rey Evangelista led four other local Hotdogs in double figures, all of whom delivered in the final half to dash the hopes of the Turbochargers to spring back from a 120-114 double-overtime loss against Alaska.

"We just got tired of losing. For the first time in my career, I did less coaching and just let them play," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio, whose Hotdogs have only won 4 of 14 games.

The Turbochargers, led by Jameel Watkins' 27 points and 18 rebounds, paid the price for taking the TJ Hotdogs lightly and fell to 5-9, just half a game ahead of the FedEx Express (4-9).

In the other game, Dennis Espino's tip-in with barely a second left carried Sta. Lucia Realty past Alaska, 95-93, for the Realtors' sixth victory in 14 games. The Aces snapped a two-game roll and dropped to 9-5.

PUREFOODS 107—Washington 21, Raymundo 13, Evangelista 13, Yap 12, Artadi 10, Yee 10, Castillo 10, Patrimonio 9, Demape 6, Sotto 2, Simon 1, Laure 0, Johnson 0.

SHELL 91—Watkins 27, Dela Cruz 16, Mamaril 13, Tubid 8, Hrabak 8, Bajar 8, Calaguio 5, Alvarez 4, Bacani 2, Marzan 0.

Quarters: 25-17, 49-41, 85-66, 107-91.

PUREFOODS' Rey Evangelista pierces the Shell defense. AUGUST DELACRUZ

Slumping Hapee battles Toyota-Otis

DEFENDING champion Hapee Toothpaste tries to snap out of an unexpected three-game slump when it takes on dangerous Toyota Otis-Letran today in the PBL Unity Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Beaten by Montaña recently through a buzzer-beating shot by Ismael Junio, the Teeth Sparklers again go for the elusive fourth win against the Knights at 2 p.m.

Lee Pipes-Ateneo and Blu Star tangle at 4 p.m. with the loser staying in the cellar.

With Viva Mineral Water already in the semis and Welcoat Paints assured of the second outright semifinal berth, the fight is on for the next two qualifying slots which will be decided by Final Four-style playoffs.

After the eliminations, the No. 3 and No. 4 teams will enjoy twice-to-beat advantage when they meet the No. 6 and No. 5 squads, respectively.

Toyota Otis-Letran is tied with Hapee at 3-4 behind idle Sunkist-UST (4-4). Montaña is running sixth at 3-5.

Under the inter-intra format, each team plays a total of 10 games in the elims. *Trina Ibarle*

STANDINGS	W	L
Viva	7	1
Welcoat	6	2
Sunkist UST	4	4
Hapee	3	4
Toyota Otis-Letran	3	4
Montaña	3	5
Lee Pipes-Ateneo	2	5
Blu Star	2	5

GAMES TODAY
(*Makati Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Hapee vs Toyota Otis-Letran
4 p.m.—Lee Pipes-Ateneo vs Blu Star

Pacquiao gets into fighting weight ...

From page A21

Suggestions of an unexpected burnout were promptly brushed off.

Earlier, Roach made an effort to add an extra weapon to the Pacquiao artillery—a blinding two-punch snap to the midsection and the chin using only the left hand.

"Yes, it's a new one," Roach said.

Pacquiao earlier claimed he and Roach had perfected a secret win-win weapon that would be exploded on fight night.

Meanwhile, the whereabouts of WBA/IBF featherweight Juan Manuel Marquez, Pacquiao's foe, remained a puzzle yesterday.

The Pacquiao camp said Marquez was reported to have arrived here last Monday.

Another report said Marquez had checked into the MGM Grand and, in fact, bumped into Pacquiao at the buffet hall during dinner Tuesday. The boxers only glanced at each other, the report said.

But another tip said the Mexican double world champ, tagged a 3-2 underdog on casino betting boards around here, would plane in from Mexico City Wednesday in time for the press conference on Thursday.

Tickets, pegged at $300, $200 and $100, have been selling briskly and promoters expect a sellout at the 10,000-capacity Grand Garden Arena of the 5,000-room MGM Grand Hotel and Casino, host to the championship.

Lenny de Jesus, the Puerto Rican cutman who will be working in Pacquiao's corner for the fourth time, predicted a knockout win for his fighter.

The fight, advertised in giant billboards along the main boulevard here, has become talk of the town.

Jenny: Worth emulating

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

NO PAIN, no gain.

That, more or less, best describes the saga of Jennifer Rosales. Her victory last weekend in the US LPGA said it all: She won at a time when people least expected it.

She did it on sheer hard work. She was four shots behind with 18 holes to go. In a major event like a leg in the LPGA, that's like being behind by 12 points with 2 minutes left in a basketball game. She won by one shot.

She did it with the patience of a woodpecker pecking away at a huge trunk of a mahogany tree to make a home on a bored hole. That's no joke.

She did it when nobody expected her to achieve the impossible–except her mother. Her perseverance to win against all odds was something worth emulating. Her being a mom's pet helped her score the nearly impossible.

That's why when she finally nailed it–after almost two hours of waiting at the scorer's tent as she had finished her round three, four flights, ahead of the championship flight–the first person she called up by phone was her mother, Lourdes.

"Mommy, I did it!" she told her mother, Lourdes. "Oh my God, Mommy, I did it!"

It was a win that will forever be indelibly etched in Jennifer's mind for the rest of her life.

A first has always been a person's permanent link to a past that, often, when revisiting it, will make you shed a tear or two. A first kiss will always be that: A first kiss. Never to be forgotten.

Oh, well, Jennifer Rosales has always been a story of courage.

I've seen her win medals in the SEA Games in Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur and many other international events. She always had that inner strength not commonly seen in many athletes.

I've seen her win titles at home, as in her five unprecedented Philippine Ladies Open championships. Her focus year in and year out to pluck those plums has been as remarkable as Mahatma Gandhi's patience to win the hearts and minds of a populace long battered and controlled by a colonial power.

I've written so many things about Jennifer. Last time out, I mentioned about my preference that she choose the DHL Open at Riviera more than that event in New Zealand.

She ignored my suggestion and that's fine with me. Columnists can only do so much. Mainly, we suggest. If a suggestion goes unheeded, we don't take it against the person. Always, a person's choice is respected, in the same way that a contrary opinion will always be respected here.

Times change and so do people.

But knowing Jennifer Rosales, she will never change. She will always be that nice little jungolfer, who has grown into a lady with a knack for fancy fashion as inspired by her best friend, that designer-cum-topnotch-golfer herself, Lora Roberto.

Oh, yes, Lora Roberto.

When Lora won her first Southern Ladies Open in Bacolod some months back, the first person, next to her Mom (and Dad), that came to Lora's mind was Jennifer.

"She has always been my inspiration," said Lora of Jenny. "Before this victory, it was Jenny who kept telling me that I would soon win my first title."

Lora had caddied for Jenny in some of Jenny's campaigns in the US. She was in New Zealand cheering Jenny on to win there.

With Jenny's victory last weekend, I'm sure Lora was among the first to congratulate the country's latest golf heroine, not to mention Bong López, Jenny's swing coach. It was Bong himself who had called up newly elected NGAP president Benny Gopez to break the good news. And, seemingly, Jenny's win augured well for Benny as the victory came exactly one week after Benny was elected NGAP president.

"I think I will also be lucky with my new stint as president of the NGAP," said Benny. "Jenny's win has brought good tidings—a sign of good things to come?—to the new chapter of my sports career."

Jenny has toiled that long already before she finally made it.

To begin with, Jenny has been knocking at the door for almost four years now. Almost, on several occasions, she would be on the threshold of scoring her first victory, only to be deflected by a combination of bad luck and miscalculations on the greens not entirely of her own making.

In case you still don't know, Jenny's victory was occasioned by her decision to change her caddy of nearly four years. In her first partnership with Donna, her new caddy, Jenny struck gold. She won $240,000 (nearly P13 million).

"Jenny is an intelligent golfer," said Bong Lopez of her ward. "When she noticed that she'd been losing her confidence reading the greens, she knew it was time to say goodbye to her caddy. I told her only she alone could say if it's time to change caddies."

Here's a glass to Jenny, who, like Manny Pacquiao, is also a truly homegrown icon.

SPORTSWATCH

Football Night raises P1 million

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation (PFF) raised P1 million during its first-ever "Football Night," a three-hour long awards and fund-raising affair held recently at the Manila Pavilion. Sports enthusiasts came to honor past PFF presidents, players, officials, administrators and sponsors. PFF president Johnny Romualdez, after being sworn to office by Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit, vowed to ensure promotion and development of the sport. Freddy Gonzalez was named the 2003 PFF-Adidas Footballer of the Year and Malou Rubio the Female Player of the Year. Special recognition were also given to Leo Prieto (BOFA), patron Co Chi Kiao, Albert Robert of Nomads FC, Fernando Alvarez, and corporate patrons Coca-Cola and Adidas Philippines. Longevity awards were handed to Sy Peng Sam (Tigers FC) for coaching, Jose Chua (Lions AC) for playing and Orlando Plagata, for both playing and coaching. The affair was backed by Aboitiz Express, Adidas, Coca-Cola, Department of Education, GTZ, New Pagcor, Petron, Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Unicef, Toby's, Cebu Pacific and SuperFerry.

Zoleta gains semis in Truflex tennis

TOP seed Bambi Zoleta demolished Alianne Gumban, 6-0, 6-0, yesterday to reach the semifinals of the girls' 16-under class in the Truflex National Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center. Other winners were No. 2 Jessica Agra over Steffani Guillermo, 6-2, 6-0, and No. 3 Nikki Manalo over Martina Rivero, 6-0, 6-0. In the girls' 12-under division, Zhane Quitara downed Kristel Buenacosa, 6-3, 6-1; Sarah Jane Lim blasted JV Custodio, 6-0, 6-0, and Sally Mae Siso outplayed Linda Marie Santos, 6-3, 6-2. Among the quarterfinalists in the boys' 12-under were Jacob Lagman, Akio Sy, Ernesto Pantua III, Francis Casey Alcantara, Joseph Baldonado.

Belle Cup slated May 21-22

BELLE Corporation, developer of Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club and Midlands Gold Club, yesterday announced that registration is now in full swing for the fifth edition of the Belle Cup two-man team golf tournament set May 21-22 in two venues. Three titles are at stake in the unique 3-in-1 competition open only for members of the two clubs paired with non-pro guest teammate, according to Belle chair Benito Tan Guat and vice chair Willy Ocier and Henry Sy. Jr. Club president Jerry Tiu said deadline for submission of entries is May 15. Major sponsors are PGA Cars, Northwest Airlines, Powell Chemicals, Kart Plaza and Werdenberg International Corp. and SM Prime.

NBDL lures 9 teams

NINE teams are expected to see action when the NBDL (National Basketball Development League) Founders Cup tournament starts on May 16 at the PAF gym at Villamor Air Base. These are Col. Roelito Nolasco's Air Force team, MIAA of engineers Mar Yumol and Ric Medalla, PCSO (Danny Santos), Eagle Squad (Rey Vallente and Ferdie Moran), Bangko Sentral (John Regala), Pagcor, GSIS, Navy (Rear Adm. Jorge Necesito and Peter Angelo Tioseco) and Garfield Phils. (Venson Ong and Manny Toralba). Other interested teams may call NBDL president Ted Magno at (049) 5680300 or 0919-5968978. Magno and marketing coordinator Joey Nesas will meet team officials at 2 p.m. today at the PSC Cafeteria, PSC Building, to finalize the rules and tourney format.

Riverbanks active chess listing on

REGISTRATION for the 2nd Riverbanks Center 2050-below active chess has started at the fourth floor of J&F Divino Building, near the LRT 2 Anonas Station in Quezon City. The one-day event reels off at 11 a.m. this Saturday at the Riverbanks Mall stage area in Marikina City. Open to beginners, unrated and rated players whose active ratings do not exceed 2050, the tournament offers a total pot of P10,000 with the champion getting the top prize of P3,000 plus trophy. Cash prizes are broken down to four places. For iniquiries, call the organizing Metropolitan Chess Club at 435-8412/826-8560 or 0916-8521069.

Derby final round today at Big Dome

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the National Cockers Association 7-Cock Derby gets going at 5 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum with more than 50 fights on tap. Today's hosts are former World Slasher Cup champion Dicky Lim of Batangas, Bebot Roxas of Tarlac and the NCA. Rep. Rudy Albano, fresh off his victory in the NCA-7 cock derby last April 22, extended his winning run as his entry Mulawin A Jimafer posted three victories in last Tuesday's elimination round, a record matched by Frankie Uy (Colorado Mulawin), Biboy Enriquez (Firebird), Rep. Claude Bautista and Gov. Ito Yñares (CPB Farm Binangonan).

QUICKEST: Jolet Jao (center) raises his trophy after topping the recent Shell Advance Superbikes races of the 2004 PCSO Grand Prix at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Flanking the champ on the podium are runner-up Randy Ortiz and third placer Julian Goitia of Double Appex Racing. The races were sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pilipinas Shell, Toyota Motors Phils., Norkis Yamaha, Kilton Motors and MOF Company.

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GARNETT (left) tries to block a shot by Webber. REUTERS

Heat oust Hornets; Kings clip Wolves

MIAMI—With the Heat running from the start and New Orleans guard Baron Davis hobbled by halftime, Miami extended its home winning streak to 16 games by beating the Hornets, 85-77, Tuesday night to clinch the first-round series, 4-3.

The home team won every game, and the Heat became the final NBA team to reach round two—and the most improbable. They were 25-57 last season, 0-7 in November, 5-15 in December and 25-36 in March before staging a late-season surge.

Miami advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals against the top-seeded Indiana Pacers, who have been idle since completing a sweep of Boston on April 25.

Game 1 is Thursday in Indianapolis.

Smothering defense and a potent transition game gave a crowd of 20,286—the largest in Heat history—plenty to cheer about.

Caron Butler led the winner-take-all victory with 23 points, and Rafer Alston made four free throws in the final 2:09 after the Hornets reduced a 16-point deficit to five.

In Minneapolis, Mike Bibby had another big postseason performance with 33 points, Kevin Garnett was not up to his MVP standard, and the Sacramento Kings started the second round with an impressive 104-98 win.

Sam Cassell scored 40 points for the Timberwolves, who have never been this far in the playoffs. But Garnett, who held up his MVP trophy in a pregame ceremony after remarks by commissioner David Stern, had a quiet 16 points and 18 rebounds—plus six turnovers.

Garnett went 1-for-8 in the second half, Latrell Sprewell missed all six of his shots after halftime and Minnesota totaled 18 turnovers.

Bibby, who averaged 23.6 points in a five-game victory over Dallas in the first round, was 10-for-21 from the field.

The fourth period featured six ties, the last at 83-all with 5:23 remaining. *AP*

SAMSUNG TOUR

Nakajima seizes lead

JAPANESE expatriate Toru Nakajima rallied with a 34 in the back nine for a two-under-par 70 yesterday that installed him as the new leader in the championship division halfway through the Samsung Amateur Tour's kickoff leg at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club.

After opening with a 72, Nakajima played steady golf again on a course he calls home to seize a two-stroke lead over former national player Gene Bondoc with a 142 aggregate. Bondoc shot a 72 for the second straight day.

Michael Bibat, the youthful first round leader, struggled to a 74 and skidded into a three-way tie for third with Mark Lopez (73) and Lyndon Barril (73) at 144.

All the top five players are members of the Southwoods stable of talents.

Only 11 of the original 22 starters made it to the final two rounds of play. Also making it were Kim Chang Hoi (74-147), jungolfers Aran Olea (78-150) and John Kier Abdon (75-151), Jay Bayron (75-151), Miko Yee (74-152) and Mari Hechanova (76-152).

Torre: Chess unity a concern of all

ASIA'S first Grandmaster Eugene Torre yesterday welcomed former Fide (International Chess Federation) president Florencio Campomanes' remark that the door is still open for peace and unity in the Philippine chess community.

"I have always believed that war, whatever its form, has no place in chess, which is a game of gentlemen. I hope that Mr. Campomanes can start the healing process so we can work together for a common goal," said Torre, who was the first president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

Torre remains upbeat on the future of local chess.

"Among others, we won three gold medals and three bronze medals in the last SEA Games, with IM (Mark) Paragua emerging as the most bemedalled Filipino athlete; for the first time in our history, we produced two world championship candidates in Paragua and IM Ronald Dableo; we won the Asian Cities Chess championship and the NCFP was able to send two 10-member teams to the World Youth Chess championship where Paragua placed among the top three."

Despite scarce resources, Torre said the NCFP has been working hard to push through with its program geared toward the development of the sport.

"But all these controversies have turned off many potential sponsors and set back the gains and progress we have achieved," said Torre.

Torre said Campomanes and other well-meaning individuals are welcome to help the NCFP.

"Nobody has a monopoly of ideas. Let's help each other instead of destroying one another," Torre appealed.

NBC Panasonic Cup unfolds with twin bill

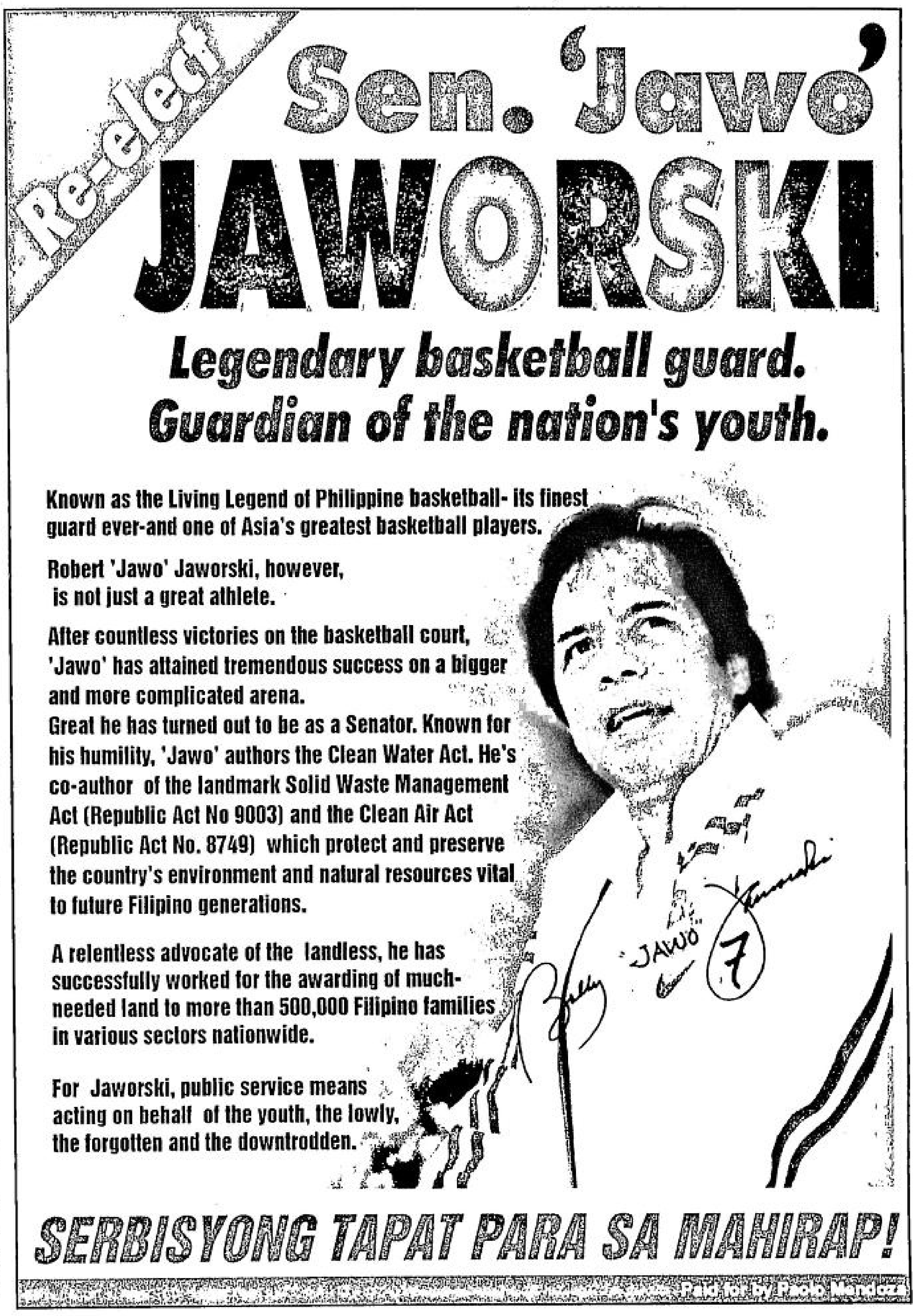
THE FINAL pre-season series of the National Basketball Conference (NBC) unwraps today with four teams vying in the Panasonic Iloilo Cup tournament at the University of San Agustin gym in Iloilo City.

It will be reigning CBF President's Cup champion Cebu-GMC General Feeds against the Baguio City Cardinals at 5 p.m. and the Iloilo All-Stars against Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo at 6:30.

A 30-minute opening ceremony at 4:30 p.m. will kick off the series backed by Sulpicio Lines and Panasonic.

The series, which ends on May 9, serves as a sneak preview of the NBC national championship slated to open late this month.

The NBC will hold its managers and senior representatives meeting tomorrow at the Amigo Hotel in Iloilo. This will be followed by a press conference.



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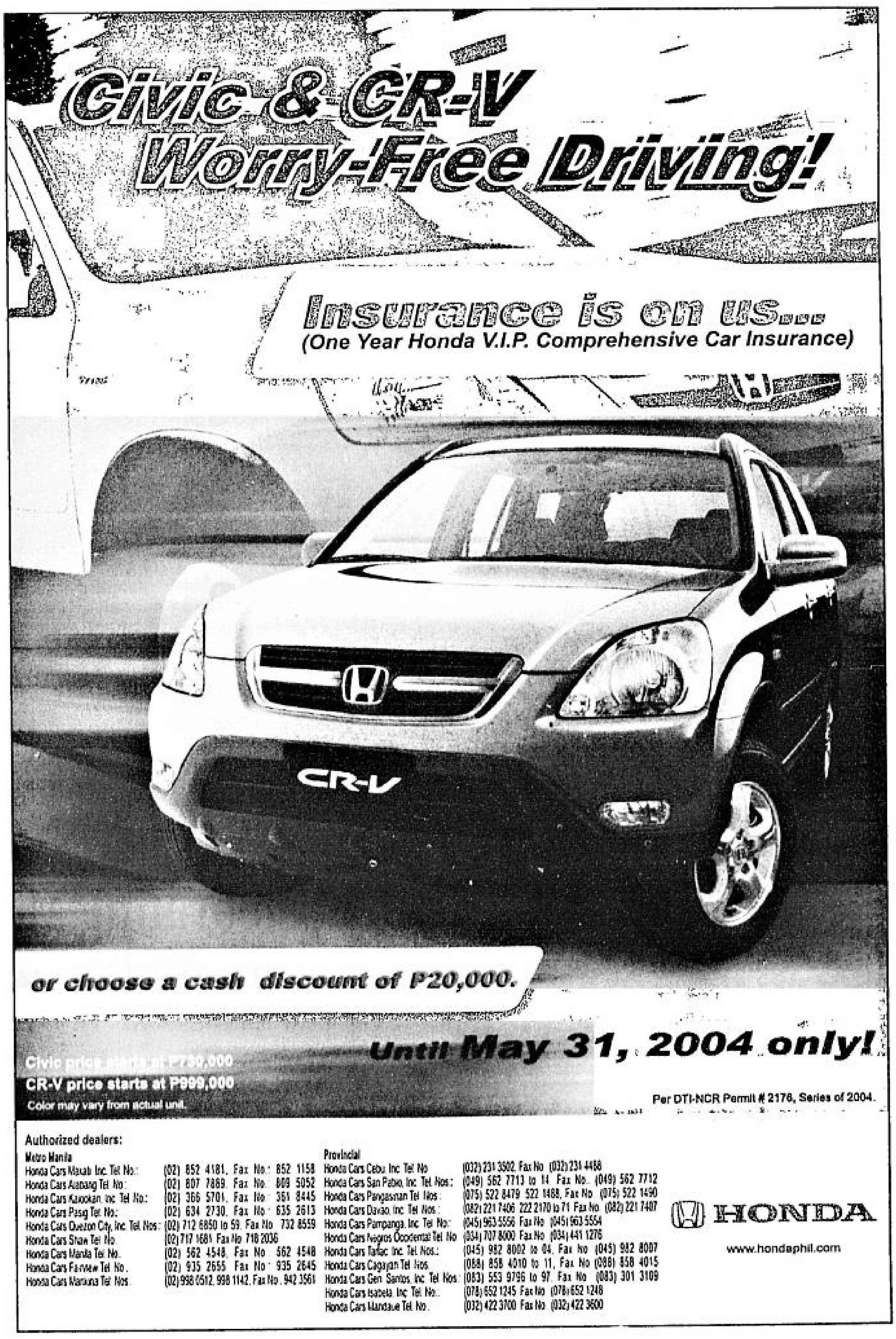

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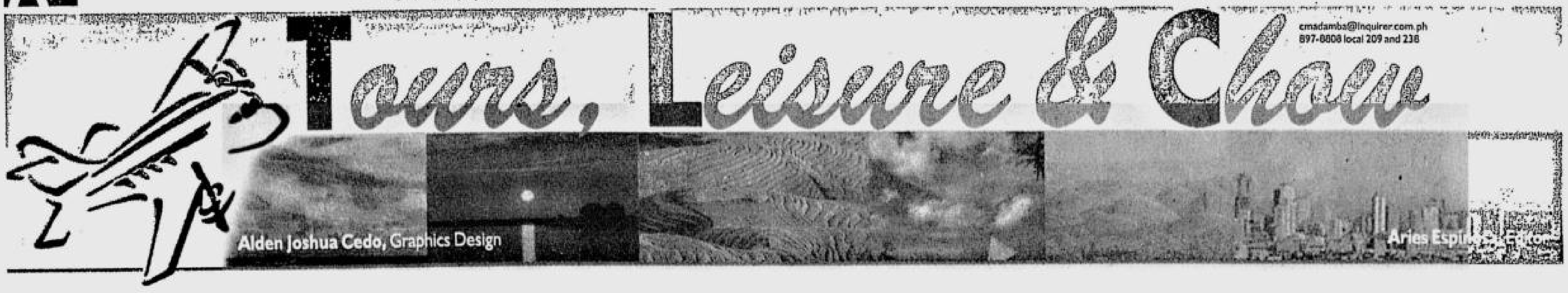

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Alden Joshua Cedo, Graphics Design

Aries Espin Editor

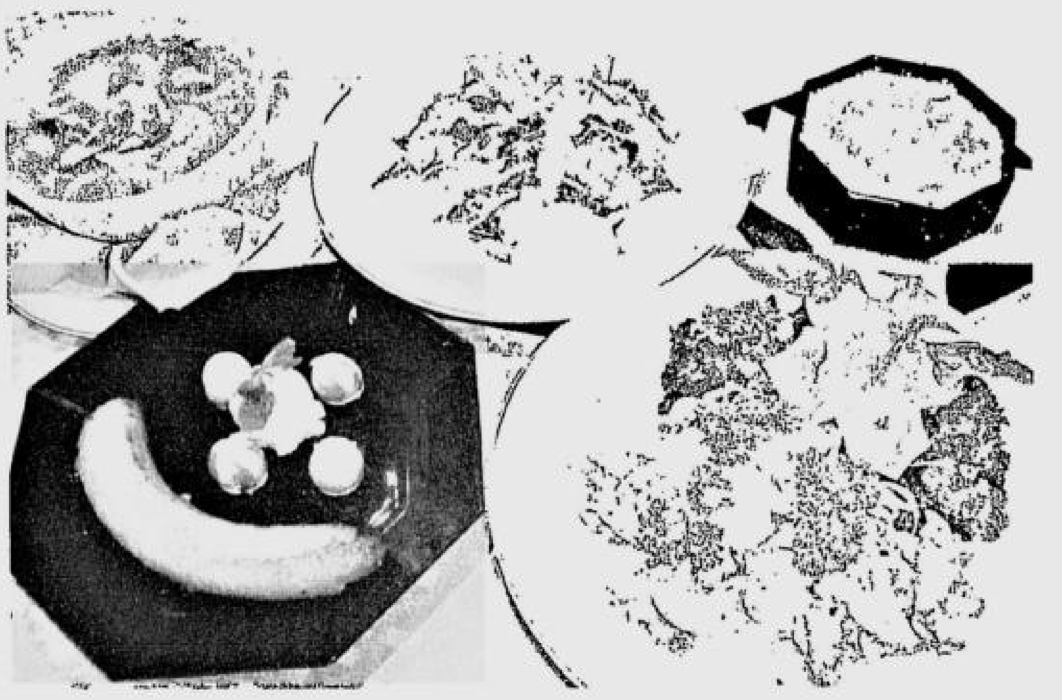
Mother's Day, music and more at Dusit Hotel Nikko

A special buffet spread of continental cuisine at The Café is pegged at P820++ per person.

ON MAY 9, make it a day for that one woman in our lives, our mothers. Make her feel loved and give her the gift of time at Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Treat her to a sumptuous meal at Dusit, which takes pride in its four fine specialty restaurants offering culinary masterpieces from Vietnam, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines, and its 24-hour buffet of continental dishes.

Special set menus from appetizer to dessert pegged at P650++ per person on Mother's Day is offered at Thien Duong Vietnamese restaurant, Benjarong Thai restaurant, Benkay Japanese restaurant, and at Fiesta San Miguel. A special buffet spread of continental cuisine at The Café is pegged at P820++ per person. Mothers dining in any of the outlets will also receive flowers, souvenir snapshots, discount vouchers from Clark Hatch Fitness Center and James Cooper Saloon, and Campbell's gift packs.



For fine Filipino food and a night out, Fiesta San Miguel-the first and only hotel restaurant and bar with freshly brewed San Miguel beer-invites everyone to unwind and listen to cool music as the country's top bands perform every night. On stage this May is Route '70 every Mondays; Jed Madella and Gail Blanco with Prime Council on Tuesdays; Wednesday has Moonstruck; Pido with Take One back-to-back with Retrospect every Thursday; Next Level and Route '70 on Fridays and Retrospect every Saturday. Beer-all-you-can is at P270++ per person from 5:30 to 9 p.m. daily. Ladies will enjoy Ladies Night every Tuesday where they receive complimentary roses. Other perks for the ladies are 20 percent discount on food, P200++ beer-all-you-can from 5:30 to 9 p.m. and 50 percent discount on select drinks 9 p.m. onwards.

Regular lunch and dinner patrons of Fiesta San Miguel are invited to become exclusive members of Club Fiesta San Miguel to enjoy special privileges like 15 percent discount on food orders, free pica-pica per member during "Happy Hour", member's monthly party plus other special events, reward points and giveaways. Birthday celebrants will receive complimentary cake and snapshot with friends or family.

For queries, call 867-3333 locals 3304 or 3308.

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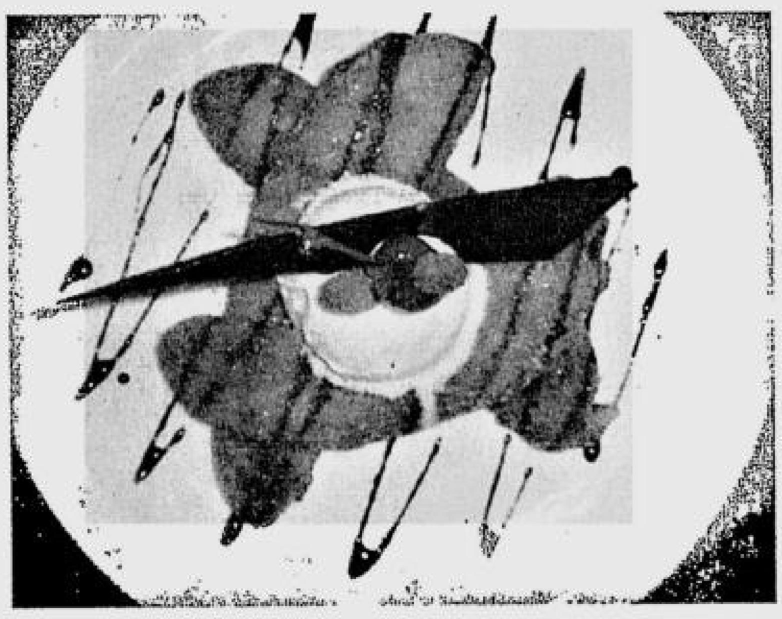


Astoria Plaza's special Mother's Day and election day

IT'S an all-exclusive Mom's Day at Astoria Plaza from May 8 to 10 as a special Mother's Day Buffet Menu is prepared by executive chef Ferdie Ramos to pamper your mom. Rates are P495 for adults and P300 for kids. Better yet, avail of Astoria Plaza's Zensational Summer Splash room promo and check-in with your mom in a one-bedroom or two-bedroom suite on the above dates for only P2,450 and P3,650 respectively and mom gets a complimentary lunch buffet and flambeé dessert. Rates are subject to service charge and government tax.

As the election fever intensifies, sample Café Astoria's wacky Election Fever Snacks guaranteed to make you grin. Have Ate Glo's Mini Achoo-choo (Spanish deep-fried Choux pastry served with traditional hot chocolate) or FPJ's Panday Crepes (glazed-sliced mangoes wrapped with Vanilla crepes). Or if you prefer an exotic twist, try Roco's Mango Florets (cognac-flavored Mango jubilee enhanced with Sabayon sauce) and combine it with Ping Goes Bananas (deep-fried sweet dough-coated bananas in Vanilla ice cream). The Election Fever Snacks are priced at P150 and are available from May 1 to 10.

The Astoria Plaza is managed by Genesis Hotels & Resorts and is conveniently located at 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. For details, visit www.astoriaplaza.com.

Celebrating Mother's at the Bellevue Hotel

TREAT that special woman in your life (your mom) to the Bellevue Mother's Day Special Brunch Buffet this May 9. Bellevue's main dining outlet, the Café D'Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant prepares a bountiful spread of epicurean delights for only P750+ per head.

Aside from assorted cheeses and maki rolls, feast on smoked salmon and tangigue, beef carpaccio and gingered chicken cakes. Choose from a wide selection of fresh salads and dressings for a healthy meal. As a special treat, giveaways will be given to moms and kids who avail of the buffet.

The Bellevue Hotel, located at the South of Metro Manila, is the newest business and social hub with five-star appointments. Distinctive diners frequent the elegantly appointed Café D'Asie Asian Specialty Restaurant and the lively 20/20, an entertainment center with a music lounge, main and sports bar at the hotel's top floor. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Mother's Day treats at Mandarin Oriental Manila

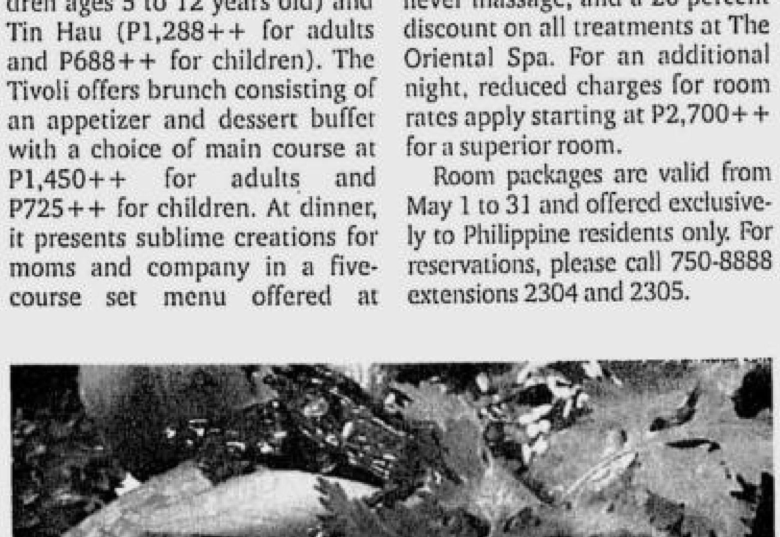
MOTHERS are in for glorious treats at Mandarin Oriental, Manila as it celebrates Mother's Day with exquisite meals and special room packages. On Sunday, May 9, that all-important woman in everyone's lives is feted with lavish meals at the hotel's acclaimed restaurants.

Discount vouchers and a raffle prize from Liz Claiborne await mothers who dine at the restaurants and those availing of room packages on this commemorative day.

Special Mother's Day buffets for brunch and dinner are available at the Paseo Uno (P1,280++ for adults and P640++ for children ages 5 to 12 years old) and Tin Hau (P1,288++ for adults and P688++ for children). The Tivoli offers brunch consisting of an appetizer and dessert buffet with a choice of main course at P1,450++ for adults and P725++ for children. At dinner, it presents sublime creations for moms and company in a five-course set menu offered at P1,900++ for adults and P950++ for children. The Captains' Bar offers a deluxe buffet for lunch at P980++ for adults and P490++ for children. At the Mandarin Deli, a three-course set menu is available at P650++ per person from May 3 to 9. Hampers of goodies to melt moms' hearts are offered starting at P1,000 per hamper.

Or treat Mom to an overnight stay, replete with pampering treatments from The Oriental Spa. Room packages start at P3,900++ for an overnight stay in a superior room inclusive of a buffet breakfast for two at Tin Hau, one complimentary Spa Reliever massage, and a 20 percent discount on all treatments at The Oriental Spa. For an additional night, reduced charges for room rates apply starting at P2,700++ for a superior room.

Room packages are valid from May 1 to 31 and offered exclusively to Philippine residents only. For reservations, please call 750-8888 extensions 2304 and 2305.



EMPEROR COURT BRINGS BACK 'SHRIMPTATION'

The exquisite denizen of the deep, namely the shrimp, is back! 'Shrimptation II' features this well-loved seafood for the months of May and June at Emperor Court, New World Renaissance Hotel's fine Cantonese restaurant. Feast on succulent shrimp creations for lunch or dinner as prepared by master chefs headed by Chinese executive chef Ken Chiu. Enjoy masterpieces such as the delicious Stir-fried Shrimp in XO Sauce Wrapped with Asparagus, mouth-watering Baked Prawn with Mushroom in Garlic Butter Sauce, Deep-fried Crispy Shrimp Puff, everyone's favorite Steamed Live Shrimps "Suahe", and Whole Shrimp Spring Roll, among other tempting shrimp dishes offered in a delightful a la carte menu. Delectable shrimp dimsum creations are also available. Try them all... again and again. Emperor Court is open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 6 to 10 p.m. For reservations, call 8116888.

Carmi Martin favors GMA vs fellow star FPJ

By Juan Escandor Jr.,
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Actress Carmi Martin on Tuesday told INQUIRER that she had chosen President Macapagal-Arroyo to be her president rather than fellow movie star Fernando Poe Jr.

Martin hosted the unscheduled brief campaign rally of Ms Macapagal in Polangui, Albay where she also proclaimed the candidacy of Joey Salceda for congressman of Albay's third district and his father, Jesus, for mayor of Polangui town.

Ms Macapagal motored to Naga City from Legazpi City and visited some municipal public markets along the way.

Martin disclosed that it was her first time to experience being with politicians in a campaign sortie.

Dressed in sleeveless blouse and denim jeans, the movie actress claimed that Ms Macapagal is fit to head the republic compared to other presidential candidates.

She said it is not President Macapagal's charisma and popularity but her credentials that made her decide in her favor.

Martin believes that being an economist, the President has the capacity to eventually solve the Filipinos' socio-economic problems.

She said that if the President would be re-elected, her wish is that the Filipino people would be united.

"There should be no more war and criticisms among the Filipino people."

She also told her fellow movie actors and actresses that they should not get hurt if she is supporting the President and not Fernando Poe Jr.

As an actress, Martin admitted though that she also "gets hurt if FPJ is being ridiculed."

Asked about her comment when senatorial candidate Ernesto Maceda called Vilma Santos "Pandak ng Lipa," Martin said Maceda's attitude was very unbecoming.

"What Maceda did was absolutely foul. Criticizing or ridiculing a candidate would not help his candidacy," Martin said.

As a parting shot, Martin said, "So that you can cast your vote freely on election day, you should listen to the dictates of your heart and mind."

Mikey's b-day a full day Pampanga affair

PRESIDENTIAL son and Pampanga congressional candidate Mikey Macapagal Arroyo celebrated his birthday last April 26 with a string of hectic activities for the whole province.

Arroyo had wanted a quiet celebration for his 35th birthday. But on the eve of his birthday, a free concert organized by the youth and held in Sta. Rita town turned out to be a "salubong" for his birthday.

Simultaneous Masses were held on the morning of Arroyo's birthday in all churches in the 2nd district of the province, where Arroyo is running as congressman.

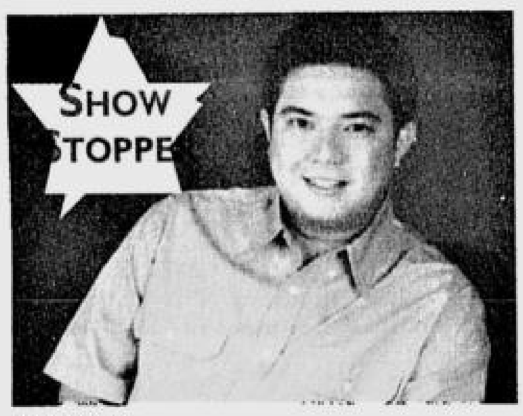
Arroyo then attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the first water system in Tokwing Resettlement in Porac town.

He also supervised the supplemental feeding session of more than 1,000 children by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Next on Arroyo's agenda were the turnover ceremony of irrigation pumps and "Operation Tuli" for the residents in the resettlement area.

At lunch, Arroyo ate with farmers, coordinators and senior citizens of the 2nd district. Then he was off for another lunch date with the mayors, Pampanga leaders and his family: President Macapagal-Arroyo and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, his wife Angela and daughter Mikaela Gloria.

At night, Arroyo sponsored a free concert for the youth attended by 3,000 people in Sasmuan.



ARROYO

Have workshops ...

From page A26

'F' on Studio 23

"F," the lifestyle show, can now be viewed on Studio 23, every Sunday at (9:30 p.m. Hosted by **Angel Aquino**, **Daphne Oseña** and **Amanda Griffin**, the program showcases fashion trends, beauty tips, cool places and hip personalities.

'Laging Ikaw'

JED **Maddela** has come up with a new hit single, "Laging Ikaw." Composed by **Boyet Navajas**, the song enables Jed to showcase his vocal range.

Jed will soon perform in the world tour of "East Meets West," a musical concert featuring talents from Europe, America and Asia.

Henrick Ibsen

HENRIK **Ibsen**'s play, "An Enemy of the People," will be mounted by Tanghalang Ateneo from July 1 to 18, with direction by **Ricardo Abad**.

In the celebrated modern morality play, a physician discovers contaminated waters that threaten citizens' health and a profitable resort in his native town. The citizens, fearful of the financial implications, place him under intense pressure to keep silent as he battles to resolutely stick by his discovery. Call 426-6001, local 5056.

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1 THE CONFESSIONS OF TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN
11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20
8:35, 10:50
GP

2 VAN HELSING
12:45, 3:55, 7:05, 10:15
PG-13

3 STARSKY & HUTCH
11:40, 1:50, 4:00
6:10, 8:20, 10:30
PG-13

4 I WILL SURVIVE
12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
PG-13

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MAN ON FIRE R18 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00	CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	STARSKY AND HUTCH PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
VAN HELSING PG13 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30	VAN HELSING PG13 11:30, 2:30, 5:30, 8:30	VAN HELSING PG13 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

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P13

CINEMA 2 STARSKY & HUTCH
12:00, 2:25, 4:50, 7:15, 9:40
P13

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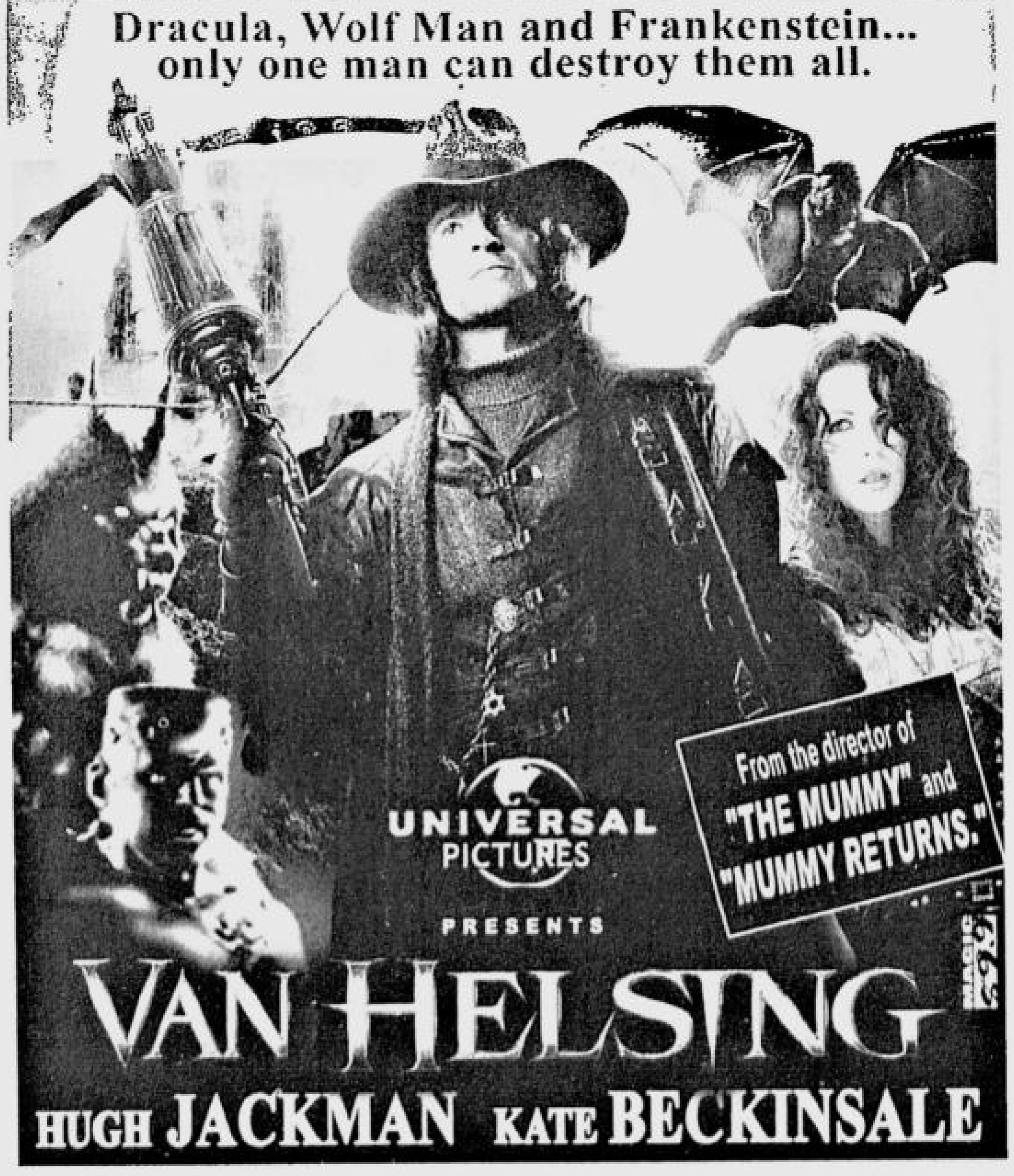

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GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593
CINEMA 1 THX VAN HELSING 10:55, 1:50, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30
2 I WILL SURVIVE 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
3 HELLBOY 10:45, 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45
4 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 10:25, 12:43, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40
5 VAN HELSING 10:20, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
6 STARSKY AND HUTCH 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
7 PAYCHECK 11:35, 1:50, 4:05, 6:20, 8:35, 10:30
8 SCHOOL OF ROCK 11:50, 2:00, 4:10, 6:20, 8:30, 10:30
9 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50
10 MAN ON FIRE 10:15, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12
1 VAN HELSING 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
2 HELLBOY 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
3 SCHOOL OF ROCK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
4 STARSKY AND HUTCH 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40
5 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 11:15, 1:05, 2:55, 4:45, 6:35, 8:25, 10:00
6 MAN ON FIRE 10:40, 1:25, 4:10, 6:55, 9:40
7 I WILL SURVIVE 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280
1 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
2 VAN HELSING 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:30
3 VAN HELSING 12:50, 4:10, 7:30, 11:30
4 MAN ON FIRE 10:35, 1:40, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
5 HELLBOY 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:25, 9:00
6 STARSKY AND HUTCH 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00
7 SCHOOL OF ROCK 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00
8 I WILL SURVIVE 12:3[illegible], 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31
1 VAN HELSING 12:15, 3:05, 5:55, 8:45, 11:15
2 CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE DRAMA QUEEN 11:25, 1:15, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35
3 MAN ON FIRE 12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:10
4 STARSKY AND HUTCH 11:30, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:10
6 HAUNTED SPIRIT 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:1[illegible]
7 I WILL SURVIVE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30
8 HELLBOY 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30

Citisquare MALABON 288-0985/2575
1 TWISTED
2 VAN HELSING
3 I WILL SURVIVE
4 THE UNINVITED

big Supercenter CAINTA 240-4661
1 VAN HELSING
2 I WILL SURVIVE
3 SORUM
4 MAN ON FIRE

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA Laguna (049)837-0907
1 SCHOOL OF ROCK
2 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
3 I WILL SURVIVE
4 STARSKY AND HUTCH
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870
1 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
2 MAN OF FIRE
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter DASMARIÑAS 852-2125
1 THE WHOLE TEN YARDS
2 I WILL SURVIVE
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 CHECK-INN
5 HELLBOY

Big R Supercenter STARMILLS 875-1927 / 961-5270
1 MAN ON FIRE
2 SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 I WILL SURVIVE
4 SORUM
5 VAN HELSING
6 VAN HELSING

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 VAN HELSING
2 HELLBOY
3 STARSKY AND HUTCH
4 HAUNTED SPIRIT
5 SCHOOL OF ROCK
6 I WILL SURVIVE

BACOLOD 441-0458/59
1 HELLBOY
2 PETER PAN
3 TAKING LIVES
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 PAYCHECK
6 THE UNINVITED

ILOILO 336-8070/78
1 HELLBOY
2 THE UNINVITED
3 TAKING LIVES
4 THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST
5 I WILL SURVIVE
6 PAYCHECK

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VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FOR quite a number of years, we taught arts and communications subjects at the Ateneo, UP and other institutions. After a while, however, we saw that many of our graduates weren't entering the field, and were instead going into their families' businesses, into advertising, etc.

This frustrated us, because we were doing our best to produce active workers who would try to raise the level of performance in performing, scripting and directing for the theater and the mass media. Since this weren't happening, we stopped teaching schools, and instead concentrated on conducting workshops and seminars outside of the academe.

Some years ago, we started teaching screenwriting for the Film Development Foundation (now Council) of the Philippines, and the rigorous workshop was open to anybody. Unlike our experience in the academe, we were pleased with the active output of our graduates, quite a number of whom have won awards, entered the TV-film field, and written scripts for outstanding productions like "Munting Tinig," "Nine Mornings," "Magnifico," and **Laurice Guillen**'s new film, "Santa Santita."

We attributed this quantum leap in the productivity of our students to the fact that our workshoppers are generally not well-to-do, unlike the Ateneo crowd, for instance. Thus, they *need* to learn, and to work in the industry, so that makes them more focused and productive workers.

Happy with our FDCP experience, we have agreed to do other workshops and seminars that have taken us all over the country. Now, our objective is not just to teach people outside of the academe, but also away from "imperial" Metro Manila.

Looking back at our teaching activities in the past couple of years, we have conducted workshops and seminars in playwriting, TV-film scripting, directing, musical-theater production, acting, film appreciation, media awareness and utilization, reviewing, setting up media campaigns for cause-oriented groups, putting up film clubs, organizing media watchdog groups, and upholding the right of children to responsible television.

If your locality needs seminars and workshops on these and related areas, contact us and our group c/o 713-9323 or 0919-2065424. Our objective is to be of service to different parts of the country, so that the performing arts and media can flourish all over the land. We can't do it alone of course, but our group is eager to do what we can.

Feedback

FROM **Lilia Alvarez** of Muntinlupa City: "Your Boob-Tube Booboos are amusing and entertaining, but they also tell what many of our stars and TV personalities are like—they try real hard to sound intelligent and profound, when in fact they're not.

"Try comparing them with the people who appear on US TV shows: many of them are smart, funny but wholesome, well-read, and knowledgeable about current events, geography, history, etc.

"But it isn't too late for our stars. They should start reading and becoming good role models. Our viewers deserve better than dumb answers to stupid questions."

(To be concluded)

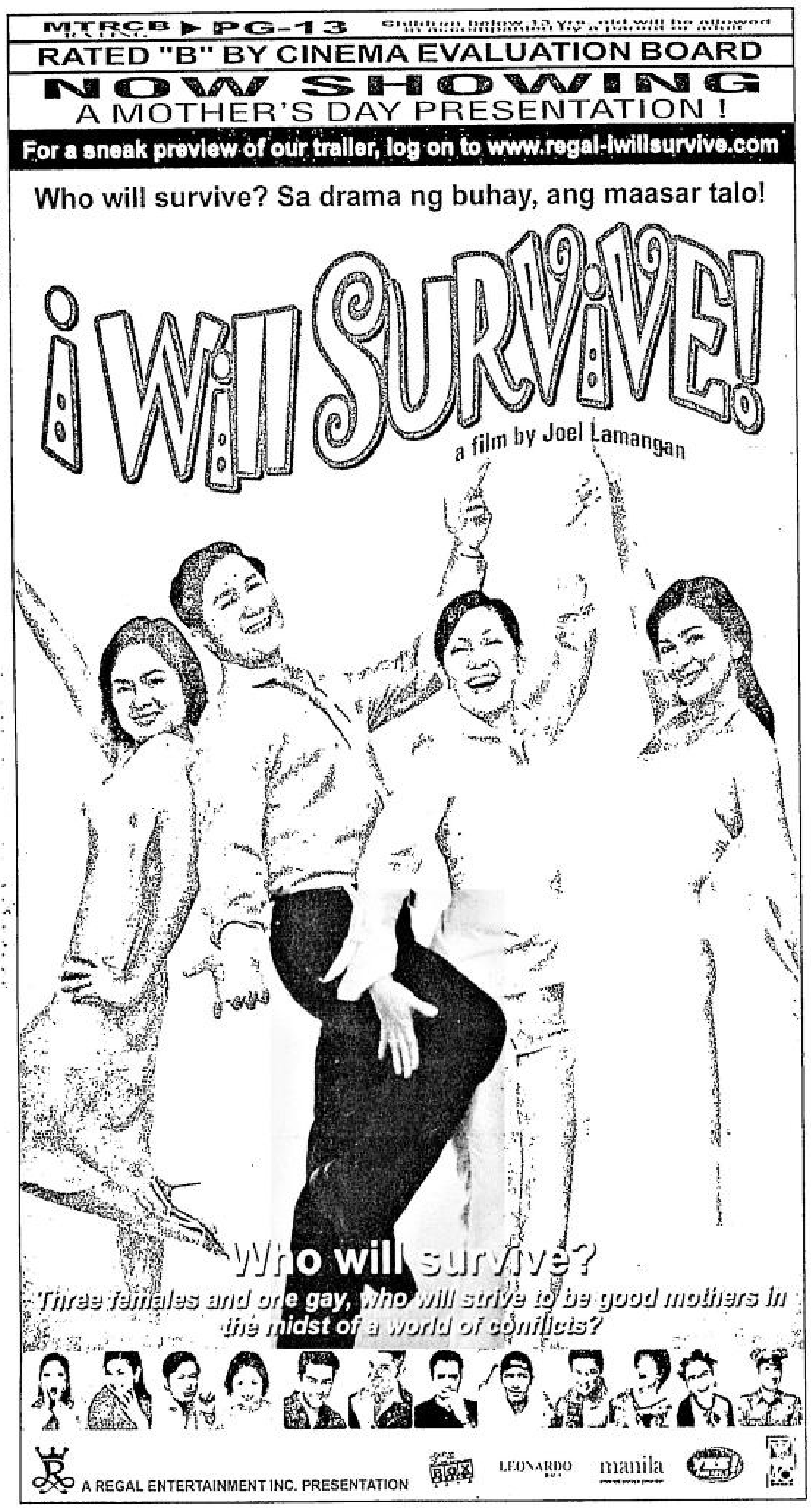
Three more performances

"THREE for the Road" at Merk's Bar Bistro was such a hit that three more performances have been set for May 6, 13 and 27. Call 757-4720.

Outstanding singers **Robert Seña**, **Mon David** and **Richard Merk** had a fun time interpreting the timeless standards of **Frank Sinatra**, **Tony Bennett** and **Sammy Davis Jr.**, and the bistro's habitues were similarly delighted.

Seña says it's really about time for singers and music buffs to return to the era of the great entertainers. "We should go back to the greatness of the past!," he enthuses.

HAVE/ A25



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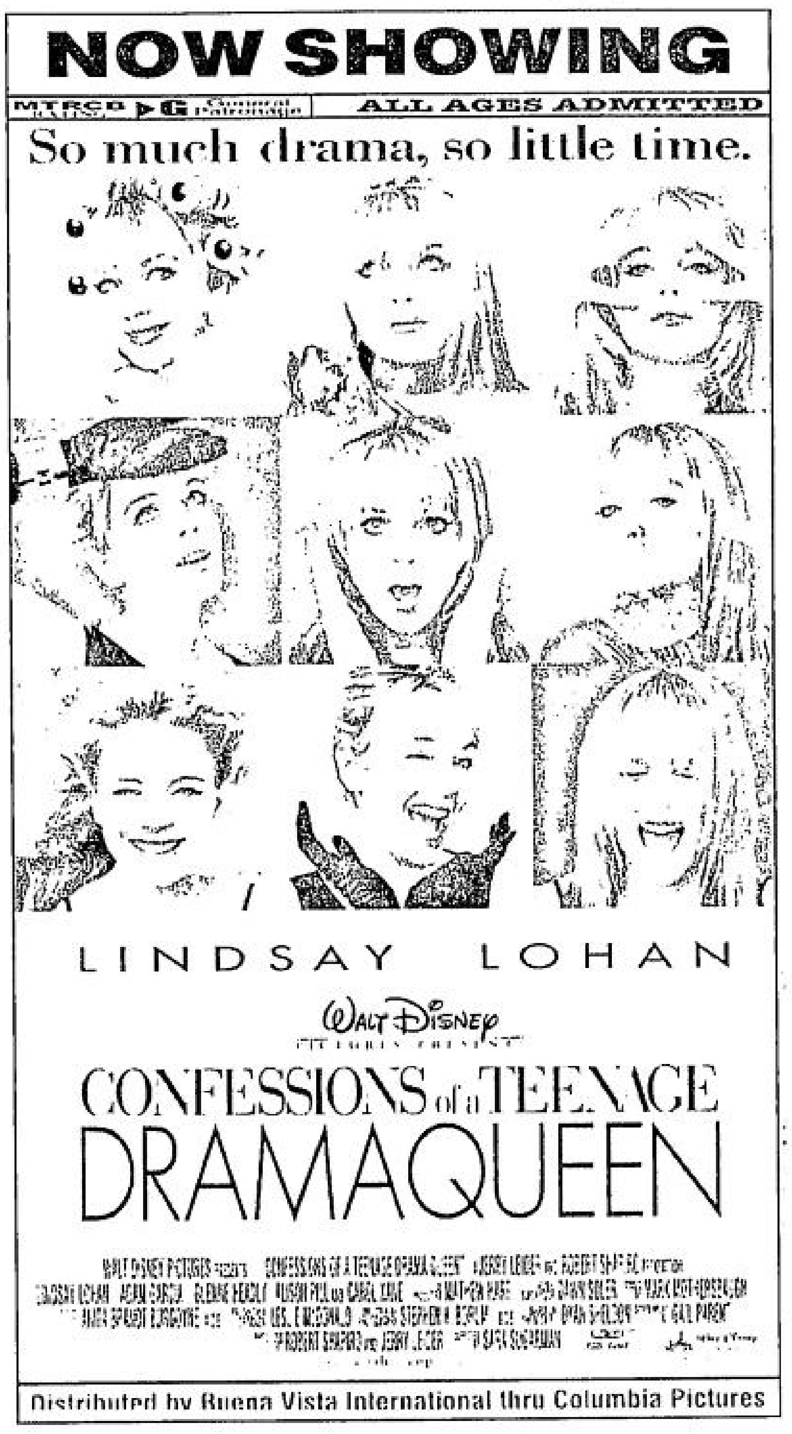

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX	
Ali 3	I WILL SURVIVE
Ali 4	VAN HELSING
Ali 5	JERSEY GIRL
Ali 6	CONFESSION... DRAMA QUEEN
Ali 7	HELLBOY
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ARANETA COLISEUM	
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MAY 9	PBA: FEDEX VS. SHELL
MAY 12	PBA : STA. LUCIA VS. GINEBRA
MAY 14	REWIND PLUS DOBLE REVO DOBLE PREMYO
MAY 16	PBA . PUREFOODS VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
MAY 19	PBA : FEDEX VS. STA. LUCIA
MAY 23	PBA : SAN MIGUEL VS. FEDEX
MAY 26	PBA : STA LUCIA VS. SHELL
MAY 29	THE SEARCHERS

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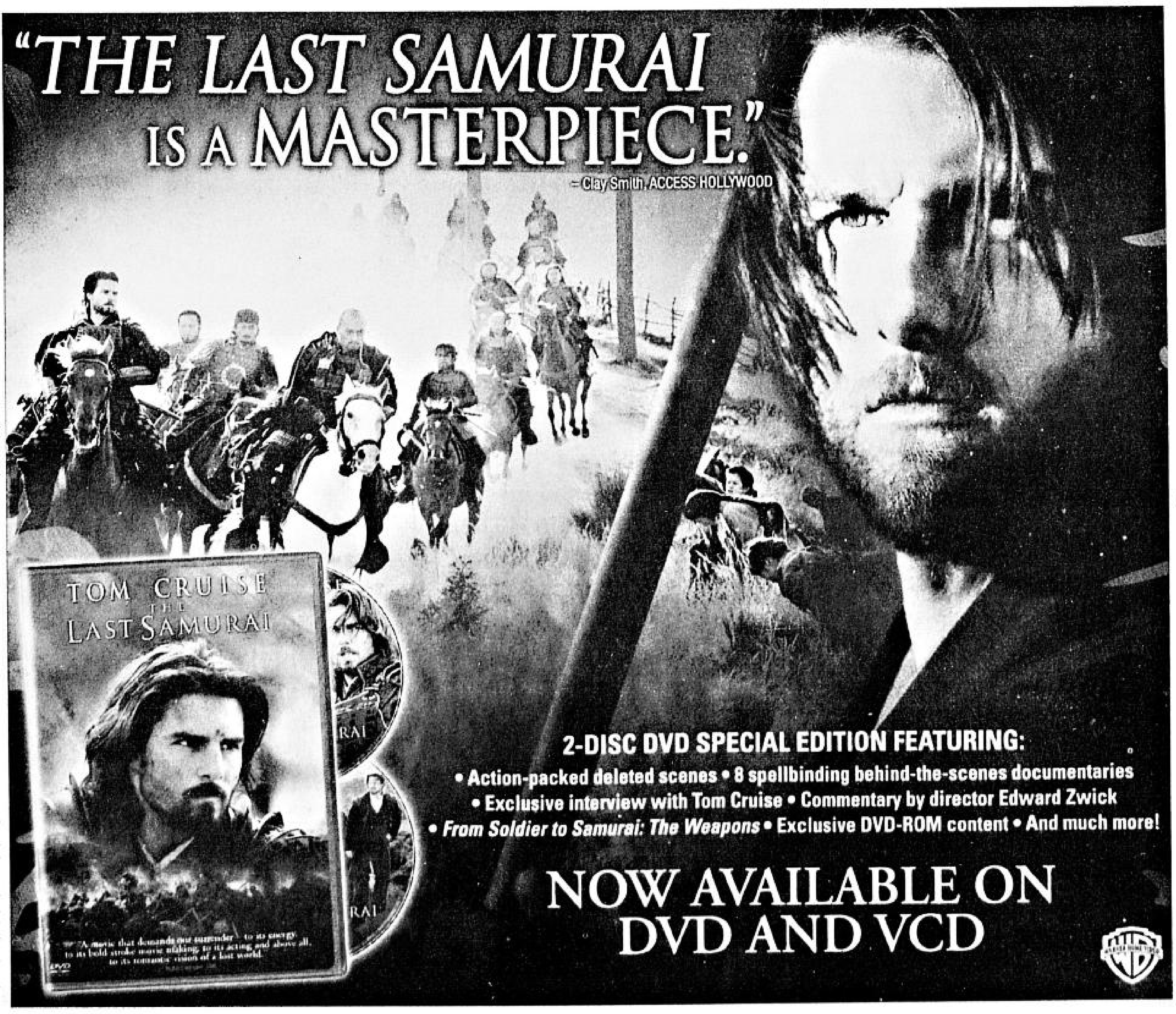
THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	U-BELT / VENUS
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LINGGO LANG ANG PAHINGA
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	SCHOOL OF ROCK
CINEMA-2	ANIMAL
CINEMA-3	WHOLE 10 YARDS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	DUDA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MAN ON FIRE
CINEMA-6	MASIKIP SA DIBDIB
CINEMA-7	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-8	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VAN HELSING
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CONFESSIONS OF DRAMA QUEEN
CINEMA-12	STARSKY & HUTCH
CINEMA-14	HELLBOY
CINEMA-15	I WILL SURVIVE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	[illegible]
CINEMA-1	ANIMAL
CINEMA-2	TAKING LIVES
CINEMA-4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA



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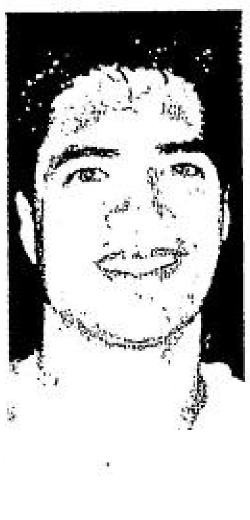
What if they become president?

MEJARES


MONTERO

GUANIO

ALCASID

LAXA-PANGILINAN

AGUSTIN

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

IT'S A red (alert?) letter day on May 10 for the entire nation. As we cast our votes, we also cast our hopes (to the wind?) for brighter tomorrows. Being president of our country is a tough job, but somebody's got to do it.

Every president starts out with lofty ideas, but can they be done? It's like having all the necessary ingredients that can't seem to be mixed properly because there's no perfect recipe for the next President.

With election fever running high, I cornered some celebrities and asked them what they would do if they were elected president. Why don't you ask yourself the same question? I did and it lead me to more questions.

Angel Aquino: "I will declare martial law and be president for as long as I want (Ha ha!). I'll have every government official investigated for corruption and any anomaly. Anyone who is found guilty will have 80 percent of all his assets declared but not taken from him, but he would be hanged. I will have all of public waiting areas in government offices air-conditioned. I will make all public service transportation systems owned by the government. And most of all, I will change the president's address to 'Office of the President El Nido and/or Boracay.'"

Albert Martinez: "I will do something about the film industry—create a sort of cooperative for filmmakers."

Toni Rose Gayda: " I will check the balance of accounts and quit immediately after realizing that there's nothing left."

Julius Babao: "I will impose a ban on the use of plastic and styrofoam products by restaurants and commercial establishments. I will enforce maximum penalty on corrupt officials and employees of the government. I will order the public execution of big time criminals, rapists, drug lords and kidnappers."

Tintin Bersola-Babao: "I will get rid of corrupt public officials and employees. No ifs or buts! I will order all restaurants, companies, etc. to use earth-friendly packaging. I will issue a presidential decree for all Filipinos to reuse, recycle and reduce. I will let taxpayers remit their tax payments to the charitable institution of their choice."

Troy Montero: "I will have a nationwide food and clothing drive for the less fortunate. I will build shelter for homeless children where they could also get an education. I will start a better recycling program so we can have cleaner streets. I'll organize a series of music concerts to raise money for children."

Pia Guanio: " I will give everyone they're due—housing, food, medical services. I will give the death sentence or walking papers to anybody who gets in the way."

Monsour del Rosario: "I want to unite our people. If I can't do it for everybody at least for the majority. My abuelito once told me that to be successful in anything whether in family or career I should remember that 'united we stand, divided we fall.'"

Ogie Alcasid: "I'll give jobless people a decent means of living. I will give free medical consultation to those who can't afford it and I think a major tax reform would be in order."

Luke Mejares: "I will eliminate all the questionable government officials. I will give all the confiscated rice to the poor. I will sell all confiscated vehicles and use the money to set up a feeding program for the less fortunate. I shall computerize and centralize all government offices such as LTO, SSS, Department of Foreign Affairs, etc..."

Marvin Agustin: "Since I feel that I'm not fully capable to do the job I will appoint people like **Panfilo Lacson** and Pres. **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** to help me carry out my duties."

Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan: "I will go to different villages of varying social classes incognito. I will eat, mingle and live among the people to find out how I can be of better service to them. I will start and end in prayer."

For feedback e-mail friends_elpueblo@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com.

P6.2-M check a forgery, says Nora

From page A28

help without strings attached. I believe she would be good for the country. She is a hard-worker and, so far, she has not disappointed me."

Aunor said she has learned her lessons from Erap and has since regretted campaigning for him.

"I listened to his speeches during the campaigns," she said. "He promised a lot of things, which he never fulfilled. But it's different with GMA. She is a woman of one word. She will do what she told you she would do."

Even if she were offered a Cabinet position should Ms Macapagal win, Aunor said she would not accept any post.

"I don't want to do harm," she said, laughing. "I just want to help, and if they gave me a post and I am not capable of doing the job, then that would be doing them more harm than good."

What she wants to be is the voice of the poor, "because I came from that sector and I know what they need."

As the voice of the poor, Aunor can assure that she would be heard in Malacañang.

"*Kung ano man ang magagawaan ko ng paraan na marinig sa itaas, gagawin ko. Kung ano ang mga hinaiing nila, ipararating ko. Kung ano ang kanilang mga hinihiling, alam ko hindi naman magdadalawang salita si Presidente dahil madali siyang kausap* (Whatever I can do to make the voice of the poor heard I would do. Whatever their grievances, I will make them be heard. I know that the President would not think twice about helping them since she is an easy person to deal with)."

In endorsing Ms Macapagal, Aunor hopes that she will not be making another mistake.

"I have committed a lot of mistakes in my life and I still have not learned," she said. "If I helped a person and that person did not do good, then I would be part of that. *Ganoon lang yon.*"

Creator of 'Panday' abandons FPJ

From page A28

about that. But we're talking about politics and governance which are out of FPJ's league."

While in Cebu, Caparas was quoted by a Malacañang reporter as having quipped, "Ronnie and I have been close, but my wife is tougher. *E kung si* Susan (Roces) *nanununtok, si* Donna *namumugot.*"

Not easy

Caparas also joked that he was literally dragged by his wife to make public his choice for president.

"It wasn't easy, but I feel relieved after expressing my choice. The country needs President GMA; the local movie industry needs FPJ."

Villa, who also belongs to a big political clan in Cebu, said she could not imagine Poe becoming a political player.

"It's not Ronnie Poe's fault," she said as she also assailed "those politicians who have been desperately trying to turn FPJ into somebody he is not." She did not name names, because "everybody knows who they are anyway."

According to the former actress, "those people are playing a dangerous game."

VILLA and Caparas

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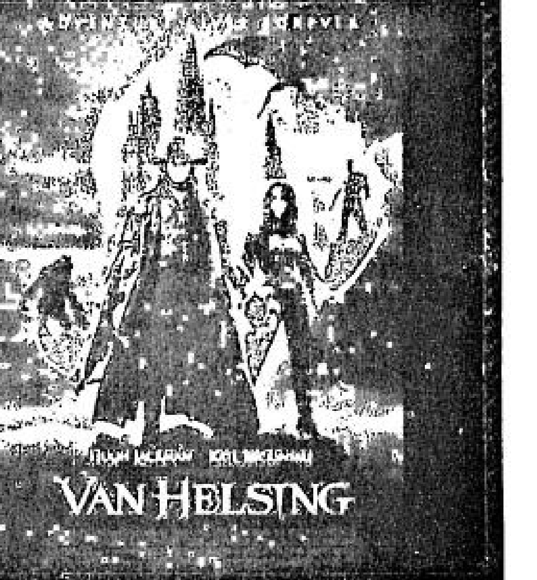

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ENTERTAINME

Editor Louie C. Camino

P6.2-M check a forgery, says Nora

By Nini Valera

SIX million, two hundred thousand pesos would have been enough to pay off all the debts of actress Nora Aunor.

Calling the P6.2 million check she supposedly received from Malacañang a forgery, Aunor yesterday told Inquirer Entertainment: "*Kung nakakuha nga ako ng ganyan, di nabayaran ko na lahat ng utang ko* (If I received that much money, then I would have been able to pay all my debts)," said the actress.

On Tuesday, the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino alleged that Aunor had received a P6.2 million check as payment for "services rendered" to the government. The KNP has questioned the use of public money for President Macapagal-Arroyo's campaign.

Malacañang called the story "another canard from the lowliest purveyors of black propaganda."

Speaking in Filipino, Aunor, 52, however, admitted that she had received P620,000 from Malacañang as reimbursement for expenses she had incurred while doing community projects in various parts of Metro Manila. She also admitted signing a Malacañang voucher for the amount.

She said the documents supposedly received by the KNP were "created" by using the computer software Photoshop.

"It's so easy to doctor documents with Photoshop," Aunor said.

Community projects

Her manager, Nory Sayo, gave Inquirer Entertainment copies of the Malacañang voucher Aunor had signed for the P620,000 and the Landbank check in that amount. Sayo also gave copies of what she said were the bogus documents and pointed out the discrepancies between the true and the "doctored" copies.

Aunor stressed that she did these community projects, such as trips to the Home for the Aged and a micro-financing project for a community in Tondo, Manila on her own and not as part of her campaign for President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is seeking a full term as president this coming elections.

The actress said she accepted the money to help her finance her community projects.

Good works

She told Inquirer Entertainment yesterday that she had been doing her "good works" as early as 2001 without any politician backing her up.

"I came from the poor and I want to help," she said in Filipino."My advocacy programs are my way of helping them."

Aunor pointed out that if some people could smear her for "helping the poor," they could do worse to President Macapagal.

"They will really do anything just to topple her down," she said.

"It's very clear that even my helping the poor is being turned into a political issue. What would they do if they were in power? But this would help us choose who to vote for. Who else would we choose?

"It's only now that I have come to realize that they could do such things, that it's not beneath them to tamper records and documents. What more would they do if they were already in power? They could do everything they want to do."

Aunor said the KNP could have checked if the documents that were supposedly slipped under the door of the KNP headquarters on Monday were authentic.

Scary

"Lawyer *pa naman ang nagsalita*," said Aunor, apparently referring to KNP secretariat chief Hector Villacorta, a lawyer, who had said that "the public deserves to know what services were rendered by Ms Aunor to warrant this much (payment).

"They can just accuse anybody of anything," Aunor said. "*Nakakatakot* (It's scary)."

Aunor stressed that she is not a political person even if she once almost ran for public office in Bicol "until Danding (Cojuangco) junked me."

"If they can fool people into believing lies, then it would be an ugly scenario of they assume power," she said.

Free of charge

The actress claimed she never charged for services rendered during the presidential campaign of former president Joseph Estrada.

"It's like this: When Erap ran (for president), I was there to help him, starting with those trips in the Middle East. I was also there for (Edgardo) Angara. I did not charge them anything. I even recorded a jingle for them, but I did not charge them for that. You know how much that would cost if I charged them," Aunor explained.

But she admitted that Estrada had given her house and a vehicle for helping him campaign.

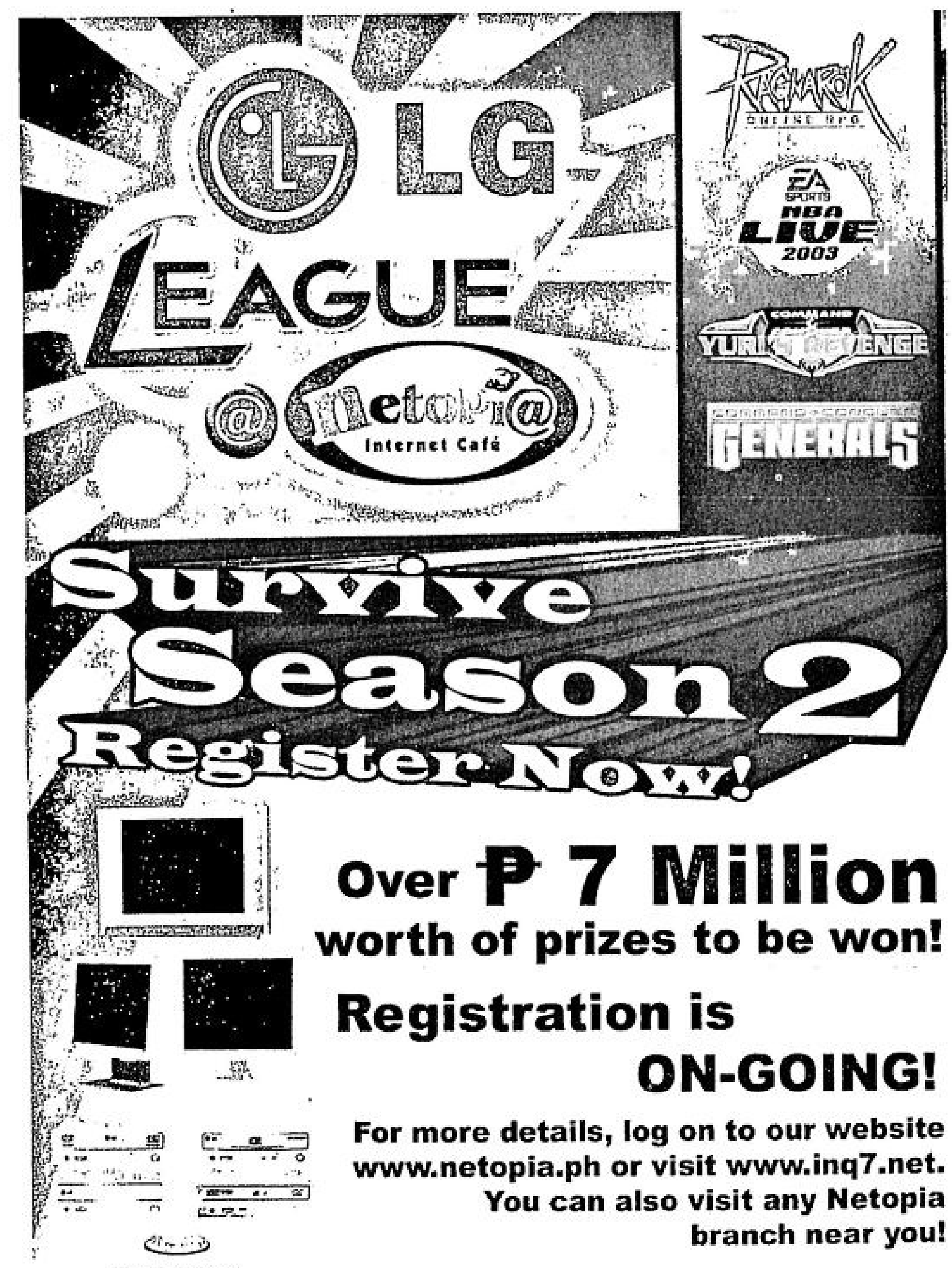
"That's different," she said. "I did not ask for a house and a car. Those are not payments for services rendered. But I accepted them because I'm no hypocrite."

Aunor said that if she had charged professional fees for endorsing Estrada's candidacy, then the house and vehicle would not have been enough to cover her fees.

No strings attached

She is rendering her services this time to Ms Macapagal's campaign. But as in Erap's case, she will not charge the president for any help she has extended.

P6.2M/ A27



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Creator of 'Panday' abandons FPJ

By Jerry Esplanada

THE MAN who created the character that Fernando Poe Jr. is best known for has thrown his support for the actor's biggest opponent in the presidential race.

Director Carlo Caparas, who wrote the comic book novel revolving around the fantasy hero "Panday," and his wife, former actress Donna Villa, said Poe is "undoubtedly one of the pillars of the local movie industry, but Filipinos need somebody like GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo), not a political neophyte like FPJ, to lead the nation during these troubled times."

Caparas and Villa, owners of Golden Lions Films, are the latest members of the local movie industry to throw their support behind President Macapagal.

DIREK Caparas, Villa with Ms Macapagal

Not personal

"It's nothing personal," Caparas and Villa were quick to add.

Villa said her husband's "friendship with FPJ goes beyond politics. We know Ronnie Poe will understand."

For Caparas, it was "not easy to abandon Panday, the hero of my creation," which Poe had portrayed in the movie series.

"The Panday series has been our main connection during the past 20 years. Work on the series glued us together. But sometimes you have to make a choice," he said. "But Ronnie Poe will always be a good friend."

Caparas confirmed what RPN-9 boss Serge Remonde, also president of the Kilusan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas, had told a Lapu Lapu City crowd last week after a brief meeting between the President and the show biz couple (that the "Panday's" sword had been broken.)

"It's true. *Nabali na ang espada ni* Panday (Panday's sword has been broken)," Caparas said.

The couple's friend, Manuel Morato, currently director of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, shares their views.

"FPJ should stick to the script," he told viewers of his TV talk show Dial M.

Get real

Villa also reminded the 200,000-plus workers in the film industry that next Monday, "we'll be choosing the next president of the country, not the president of a screen actors' guild or a body promoting the welfare of people involved in the movie business."

"Let's get real. Let's choose an experienced leader and in the presidential race GMA is obviously the most qualified candidate," she asserted. "May 10 is also not the time to vote for our favorite movie stars. It should not be regarded as a popularity contest."

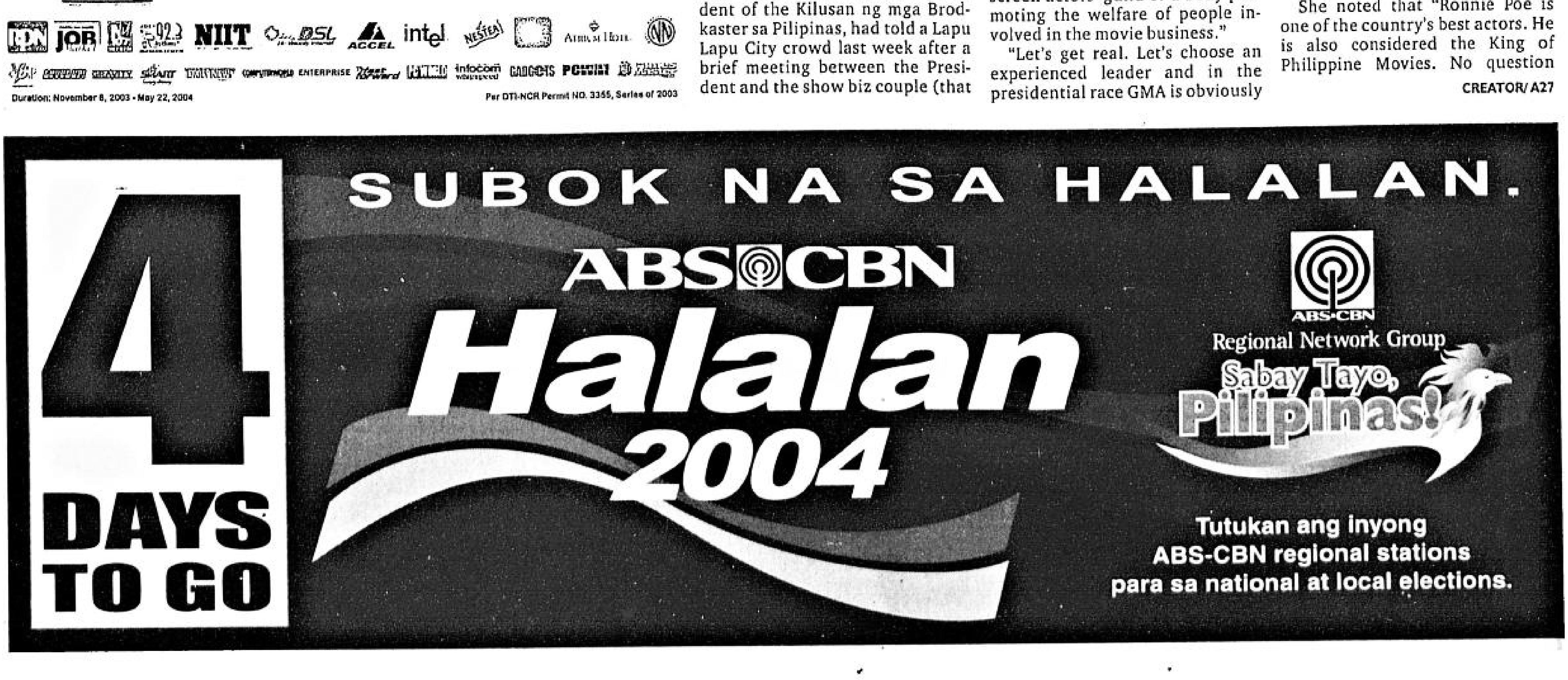
The couple expressed their sentiments about the heated presidential race after an interview on a non-political issue: video piracy and government's alleged "losing battle" against the trade menace.

Villa pointed out "my husband and Poe, the Kilusan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino presidential bet, have been friends for quite some time, having worked together in at least six "Ang Panday" movies."

Tougher than Susan

She noted that "Ronnie Poe is one of the country's best actors. He is also considered the King of Philippine Movies. No question

CREATOR/ A27



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Peso soars on widening GMA poll lead

ByDoris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday soared to its highest level in nearly four months, closing at 55.46 to a dollar, as the market cheered President Macapagal-Arroyo's widening lead over popular actor Fernando Poe Jr. in a poll survey.

Gaining for the third straight day, the local currency opened at the intra-day low of 55.62 and breached the support level at 55.50 to hit an intra-day high of 55.42 before closing at 55.46 against the greenback.

It was the peso's strongest close since Jan. 14 this year when the local currency finished at exactly the same level.

Total value turnover at the Philippine Dealing System hit $251.7 million, up from $213 million on Tuesday.

Trading at the PDS was likewise influenced by the soft demand for US dollars at Asian markets yesterday, as regional traders took their cue from the US Federal Reserve, which said interest rate increases in the United States would not be abrupt.

The US Fed said yesterday the expected interest rate adjustment would be done "at a pace that is likely to be measured."

"The peso continued to gain on the back of OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances, short-selling and general US dollar weakness," said Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

Rovic de Guzman, chief foreign exchange dealer at Union Bank of the Philippines, said the market was taking position on a possible GMA victory.

"The political premium seems to be thinning," De Guzman said, noting the peso was gaining despite some corporate demand for dollars.

He said the peso would continue to be volatile in the remaining days prior to the May 10 elections, with a likely intra-day range of 20 to 30 centavos.

Assuming no fresh political uncertainties would be introduced, he said the momentum would likely continue favoring the peso.

De Guzman said the market's next target would be the P55-to-$1 psychological resistance level.

This local currency strengthened as Ms Macapagal widened her lead over opposition candidate FPJ based on the latest survey by Pulse Asia.

GMA was predicted to win 37 percent of the votes, compared to 31 percent for Poe, the popular movie star whose candidacy had spooked the markets because of his unimpressive educational background and lack of experience in running a public office.

Some traders believed the peso might return to the levels prior to the escalation of election-related jitters last year. The peso started its freefall due to political uncertainties.

The peso traded at the 53 and 54 levels until July last year. It weakened to the 55 levels and further to 56 this year on fears relating to the May elections.

Only last late March, the peso hit a record low of 56.45 to the dollar.

Inflation rose to 4.1% in April

By Michelle V. Remo

INCREASE in consumer prices continued to grow at a much faster rate in April, when election spending was perceived to have reached its height as the May 10 elections drew closer.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that using 1994 as the base year, the inflation rate in April accelerated to 4.1 percent from only 3.8 percent the previous month. Using the year 2000 as base, the April inflation was maintained at the previous month's 4.2 percent.

The inflation rate for April was also higher than the 2.8 percent recorded during the same month last year, and brought the 2004 year-to-date average price increase to 3.7 percent (using 1994 as base) and 4 percent (using 2000 as base).

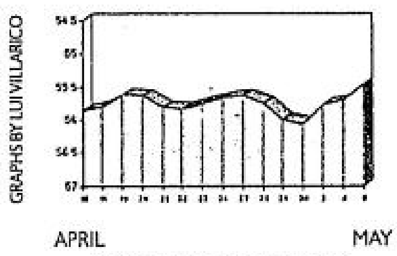
The inflation figure for April was likewise higher than the forecasts made by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the National Economic and Development Authority, which said April inflation would most likely stand at only 3.9 percent, and at a range of 3.5 to 4 percent, respectively.

The NSO attributed the higher inflation rate for the month to the significant jump in the cost of food items and other basic commodities, including oil and gasoline. NSO data showed that the April inflation rate posted by products under the food, beverage and tobacco group was much higher at 4.7 percent

INFLATION/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.46= $1

As of 5 p.m., May 5, 2004

¥ 109.85 =$ 1

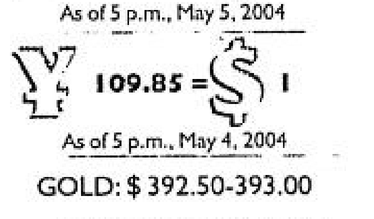
As of 5 p.m., May 4, 2004

GOLD: $ 392.50-393.00

per ounce Hong Kong, May 5, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks end lower on profit-taking

STOCKS dipped yesterday on profit-taking in telecom issues, including top-ranked PLDT and number-two Globe Telecom, which reported strong first-quarter results.

The main index dropped 11.7 points, or 0.74 percent, to 1,562.13 points. The market is up 8.3 percent so far this year. Turnover dipped to P539.23 million from Tuesday's P674.2 million.

"The stock market's drop is mainly due to PLDT. Although the results were quite positive, it triggered profit taking," said Asiasec Equities research head Oliver Plana.

Losers narrowly beat gainers 18 to 17 and there were 35 stocks unchanged.

Analysts expected the market to drift sideways with players looking ahead to May 10 polls to elect a president and vice president, members of Congress and 17,000 other officials at all levels of government.

In the latest survey, President Macapagal-Arroyo had extended her lead over movie actor Fernando Poe Jr.

Arroyo's support level rose to 37 percent and Poe stayed put at 31 percent among the 1,800 voters polled by Pulse Asia. *Reuters*

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TO SMALL time politicos in the provinces, at least in the 2004 elections, money is not forthcoming from the big time candidates in Manila.

This time, most of the candidates for local government posts, plus those for the congressional seats, are on their own—with a few, very few, exception.

Everybody knows that the camp of Sideburns, i.e., one of the camps in the fractious opposition, is not getting a flood of campaign funds.

On the other hand, all you see on television these days are the political ads in favor of this cute administration of Gloriaetta, courtesy of various government agencies.

Thus, this cute administration must have the money. Its candidates in the local levels, from mayors to congressmen, must be jumping for joy.

Put me under house arrest if you want, but my info is, money is not forthcoming from Malacañang to the locals, except those with so-called COMMAND votes.

* * *

IT'S not so much because the political strategists of this cute administration already spent the campaign funds on those television ads.

Those ads are, technically, at least to the Comelec, not election-related ads at all. It's just that they are being shown right before the elections. Pure coincidence.

Also, money for the ads do not come from the campaign funds of Gloriaetta. It comes from us. It is the taxes we remitted to the BIR that went to those agencies.

Still, while the ads show Gloriaetta in all her supposed glory, they are not political ads. They are what is known in our basketball-crazy barangay as NOT counted.

And so agencies like the PCSO spend hundreds of millions of pesos for the ads. And the Comelec thinks it is alright. Hell—we all think it's alright!

Now I heard Brother Eddie--live--once talked about how we should fight corruption starting with the electoral process. Believe me, it's where all the dirt starts.

How do the "donors" recover those billions upon billions of pesos in political contribution? Not by staying away from government contracts, I'm sure.

* * *

FROM what I hear in business, nevertheless, in these elections, big business seems to be suffering from a syndrome known as donor fatigue.

Many in big business are cutting back their budget for campaign contributions. Moreover, the usual TONG-style of gathering campaign funds is gone.

For instance, only some years ago, the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce used to collect from members to build a kitty for political contribution.

Everybody gave to the federation, and the federation boss apportioned the money among the candidates. The very Pinoy debt of gratitude went to the federation leadership.

But a certain Kapitan, a taipan who is also known as Lucio Tan, changed it all. During his term in the federation, he banned the collection of TONG, este, contribution.

Today members of the federation just give on their own to the candidates of their choice. It is no longer obligatory. This actually means less campaign funds.

* * *

AND so this cute administration can actually be selective in giving out dole-outs to the local candidates even in its own ruling party.

It is clear that, because of the donor fatigue, the other candidates—except perhaps Sen. Panfilo Lacson—do not have much money.

Thus they cannot afford to hand out large amounts, if any, to their candidates in the local levels.

And the strategists of this cute administration know it very well. And so why will they spend more money on their local candidates?

Still, word goes around in big business that some groups solicited campaign funds to support candidates in areas where there are COMMAND votes.

My sources pointed at areas such as Ilocos Sur of Chavit Singson, or Cebu of the Garcia clan. Whatever it takes to win, right?

* * *

HONESTLY, I almost set the TV remote control on fire, surfing the stations for the NON-political ads of the government housing agencies. No dice!

Maybe it's because those agencies have no accomplishment to crow about at all, none worthy of NON-political ads timed with the elections by coincidence.

Simply put, we have no real housing program under this cute administration of Gloriaetta. We have actually erased the gains during the time of Kuya Eddie.

And for all that we can thank the housing czar under this cute administration, whose family is more into building a political dynasty than the Mings.

After giving up his congressional seat in the district where he did nothing, his sister took over. Now comes the father. Soon their driver will run for the office!

Do you still wonder why millions of us still do not have houses?

* * *

MASS housing is getting a little attention from the private sector, acting on their own, meaning, without incentives from the government.

Ayala Land, Megaworld, and Fil-Estate Land, or Feli, for instance, are going into low-cost housing units, as part of their growth strategy. Forgodsakes, there is a huge demand for low-priced shelter out there!

The publicly listed Feli, perhaps fearing it would be left behind in the race for dominance in low-cost housing, decided to do something about its debt burden.

The company, you see, is rich in assets but it is short of cash. Thus it could not pay off its debts, on which the interest kept on piling up, weighing down the company.

Whadayano, after ballbreaking negotiations with the banks, Feli was able to reduce its more than P1 billion in debts last year to only P300 million today.

By September it expects to wipe out all its debts. It's like starting anew, even if some people at the Palace who do not like some people in the company.

* * *

ANYWAY, Feli must have learned a valuable lesson from the Asian financial crisis of 1997 which busted the local real estate balloon.

In the future, the company said during its recent annual stockholders' meeting, the company will only borrow for projects which can sell.

That means, according to insiders, more concentration on medium- and low-priced housing projects.

For instance, the company is converting its office building project into residential condo units, hoping to sell them to Pag-IBIG members.

Among such projects are Sun Plaza, which is near the MRT station on Shaw (Megamall), and the Cathedral Heights condo.

Of course Feli is assuming, by trying to tap the Pag-IBIG members, that the government-managed fund has money for everybody. Hmm.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 5, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	55,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17	17.25	17	17.25	11,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	41.5	41	41.5	298,400
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	39	39.5	39	39.5	35,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	.52	30,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	24.75	25	24.75	24.75	157,600
Philippine National Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	2,500
Security Bank Corp.	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2010	2010	2010	2010	100
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	8,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	130	130	130	130	51,340
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1470	1470	1470	1470	660
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.68	.68	80,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	865	865	830	840	57,460
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	1.66	1.7	1.64	1.7	10,455,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.125	0.125	0.125	.125	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1100	1100	1070	1070	246,940
Philweb Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	6,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.5	19.25	19.25	111,400
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31.5	31	31.5	712,900
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.35	4,225,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	1,209,000
Int'l Container Term'l SV	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	2,200,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	.3	880,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.62	1.64	1.62	1.62	49,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	701,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	21,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	29	28.5	29	3,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	20.75	20.75	20.75	20.75	45,600
San Miguel Corp. A	59.5	59.5	59.5	59.5	6,500
San Miguel Corp. B	74	74.5	74	74.5	13,500
Universal Robina Corp.	7	7	7	7	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	350,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	6,408,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3	3.05	3	3	1,200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.46	1.46	25,000
BHI Holdings Inc.	340	340	340	340	130
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	6,450,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.023	0.023	0.022	.023	4,800,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	806,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	900,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.53	.53	130,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	610,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	.26	180,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1	1	1	1	15,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	100,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15	15	15	15	2,400
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	.23	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Pryce Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	510,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.15	0.15	0.15	15	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	.51	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24	24	24	24	452,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.7	5,368,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.215	.215	1,320,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	452,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.16	0.165	0.16	.165	70,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	.25	1,500,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.3	6.4	6.2	6.4	2,926,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	560,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	200,000
Omico Corp.	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	10,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.35	35	500,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	18,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000

URC sees hike in foreign sales, sets expansion

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GOKONGWEI-OWNED food and beverage firm Universal Robina Corp. expects its international revenues to grow by at least 20 percent this year as the company pursues expansion plans in Asia.

URC president and chief operating officer Lance Y. Gokongwei said URC would spend about $25 million mainly to expand its production capacity for snacks in Indonesia, its biscuit production in Thailand and to set up a candy operation in Vietnam. It will also expand distribution lines in other cities in China.

Gokongwei, however, did not identify these cities but hinted these might be in the northern and southern parts of key cities in China.

"We have initiated efforts to reverse our negative performance in China. We will be focusing on a new strategy of marketing specific product categories in secondary cities and using cheaper and more traditional trade channels for distribution," Gokongwei said in his report to stockholders.

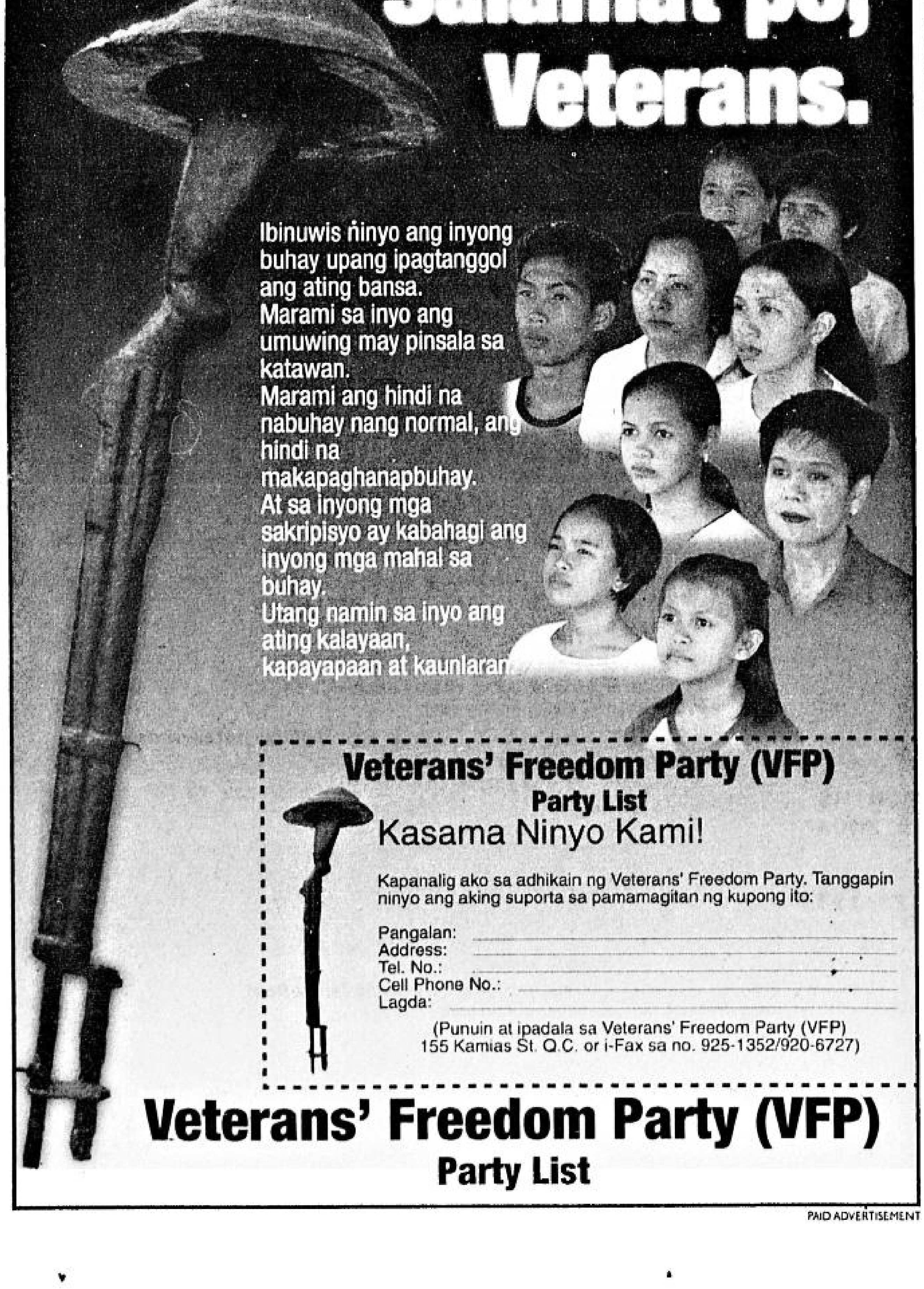
URC also reorganized its management, restructured the sales unit and consolidated manufacturing operations and assets in Shanghai.

He added that its international food operations chipped in some $85 million in revenues to the total last year.

In his report to stockholders, Gokongwei said that of the P23.41 billion in total revenues generated as of end-September, branded domestic operations accounted for 53 percent or P12.25 billion while branded international operations contributed more than 19 percent or P4.53 billion. Its domestic brands include those in the salty snacks, chocolates, confectionery, biscuits, beverages, noodles and pasta products.

For the three months ending December, international revenues contributed P1.28 billion or 20 percent to total revenues of P6.4 billion. Domestic food brands contributed 53 percent at P3.39 billion.

"We expect the cash flow contribution to increase as well (from international revenue growth). We've been growing 20 percent for the last two years. We've been growing from a larger base so that is what's exciting for the company. We are showing good numbers in Indonesia, and Thailand, particularly on snacks and candy. The core categories are growing," Gokongwei said.



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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Inflation rose . . .

From page B1

from only 4.2 percent in March.

The NSO also noted that rice, corn, meat, fish and dairy products exerted the most pressure on the price movement of food items. Prices of meat products rose by 13.5 percent from its year-ago level, thus posting its highest year-on-year increase since 1992.

The Neda blamed the price increases of food items on the rising cost of feeds, which livestock and poultry growers passed on to consumers.

Despite the higher-than-expected inflation for April, however, the Neda said the government need not make any adjustments in monetary policies because the rate was still considered within a "calm level." The Neda added that the year-to-date inflation was still well within the government's full-year target of 4 to 5 percent.

CURRENCIES

May 5, 2004 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.826514588	1.000000	55.6430
Japan	Yen	0.00756	0.009147	0.5090
United Kingdom	Pound	1.48442	1.796000	99.9348
Hongkong	Dollar	0.10597	0.128213	7.1342
Switzerland	Franc	0.64511	0.780518	43.4304
Canada	Dollar	0.604	0.730780	40.6628
Singapore	Dollar	0.487562	0.589901	32.8239
Australia	Dollar	0.602108	0.728491	40.5354
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.192404	2.652590	147.5981
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.220404	0.266667	14.8382
Brunei	Dollar	0.486128	0.588166	32.7273
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000095	0.000115	0.0064
Thailand	Baht	0.02072	0.025069	1.3949
UAE	Dirham	0.225037	0.272272	15.1500
Euro	Euro	1	1.209900	67.3225
Argentina	Peso	0.288991	0.349650	19.4556
Brazil	REAL	0.278945	0.337496	18.7793
Denmark	Kroner	0.134393	0.162602	9.0477
India	Rupee	0.018527	0.022416	1.2473
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.217533	0.263193	14.6448
Mexico	New Peso	0.072399	0.087596	4.8741
New Zealand	Dollar	0.52278	0.632511	35.1948
Norway	Kroner	0.121723	0.147273	8.1947
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014432	0.017461	0.9716
South Africa	Rand	0.120373	0.145639	8.1038
Korea	Won	0.000707	0.000855	0.0476
Sweden	Kroner	0.109356	0.132310	7.3621
Syria	Pound	.0.015986	0.019342	1.0762
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.02497	0.030211	1.6810
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000431	0.000522	0.0290

DISCLOSURES

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada Inc. disclosed that Thomas J. Clulow has been appointed vice president, corporate development in place of Thomas G. Reid who is now the vice president, investors relations.

* * *

MACONDRY Plastics Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 26, 10 a.m. at Km. 13, Agusan National Highway, Panacan, Davao City. Stockholders of record as of May 3 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

PACIFICA Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 17 with May 17 as record date. The company also disclosed the resignation of Guillermo R. Facundo and appointment of Oscar Cabading as chief financial officer and compliance officer.

* * *

TANDUAY Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 3 p.m. at the Century Ballroom of the Century Park Sheraton Hotel, Vito Cruz, Manila. Stockholders of record as of May 3 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Universal Robina Corp.** were John Gokongwei Jr., James L. Go, Lance Y. Gokongwei, Johnson Robert L. Go Sr., Frederick D. Go, Patrick Henry C. Go, Wilfrido E. Sanchez, Robert Coyiuto Jr. and Oscar S. Reyes. Also, the company declared a cash dividend of P0.30 per share from its unrestricted retained earnings as of Sept. 30, 1997 to stockholders of record as of June 3, and payable on June 29.

* * *

LIBERTY Flour Mills Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 26, 3 p.m. at the board room, Liberty Building, 835 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of April 30 will be entitled to notice and vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Erika Sarmiento, PDI Research***

EMPLOYMENT UP

Economic zones post 28% growth in exports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ECONOMIC zone locators posted a 28-percent increase in exports in the first quarter of the year to $7.18 billion from $5.6 billion in the same period last year, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority reported.

At the same time, the number of jobs generated by the ecozones went up by 15 percent to some 967,000 from year-ago's 839,000.

Data from the agency show that the four government ecozones yielded a total of $1.67 billion in export receipts from January to March, an improvement of about one percent from $1.65 billion in the first three months of 2003.

In the first quarter, Baguio City Economic Zone exported $734.5 million worth of products; Cavite Economic Zone, $472 million; Mactan Economic Zone, $382.5 million, and Bataan Economic Zone, $86.3 million.

The special economic zones (SEZ) shipped out a total of $5.5 billion worth of products, an increase of 40 percent from $3.94 billion in the first quarter of 2003.

The top five SEZ exporters were Laguna Technopark Inc., accounting for $1.83 billion; Gateway Business Park, $1.15 billion; Amkor Technology SEZ, $359.88 million; Carmelray Industrial Park I, $246.95 million, and Lima Technology Center, $198.64 million.

Laguna Technopark posted a 6-percent increase in exports, compared with the yield of $1.72 billion in.the first quarter of last year.

The four other top performers enjoyed growth rates of between 11 percent and 330 percent.

Also, employment in the ecozones went up, with some 386,000 employees directly hired and 580,000 indirectly hired.

Overall, the top three employers during the period were the Cavite ecozone with 70,714 jobs; Mactan ecozone, 41,844, and Bataan ecozone, 18.974.

Among the SEZs, the top three employers were Carmelray Industrial Park II with 12,607 jobs; Gateway Business Park, 12,206, and First Cavite Industrial Estate, 11,741.

Last month, Peza reported that ecozone investments in the first quarter ballooned by 515.6 percent to P21.87 billion from P3.55 billion in the same period last year.

Mobile phone users seen growing to 35M in 3 years

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. expects that 10 million more Filipinos will become mobile phone subscribers in the next three years.

At present, about 30 percent of the population, 82 million, are wireless phone subscribers.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno estimated that in three years, the percentage of mobile phone users to the total population—would hit between 35 and 40 percent.

This means 30-35 million Filipinos will be using mobile phones by that time.

Last year, PLDT projected that by 2005, the penetration rate would only be at about 25 percent. Rival firm Globe Telecom Inc. was slightly more aggressive with a forecast of about 33 percent by next year.

"The current number is defying all estimates previously made because we are now hitting 30 percent. I think this is partly due to how well we have reinvented business models. So a 35 to 40 percent penetration rate in three years is not impossible," said Nazareno who is also president of Smart Communications Inc.

Smart and affiliate Pilipino Telephone Corp. have a combined wireless subscriber base of 14.4 million as of end-March, up from 12.9 million in end-2003. Globe's subscriber base grew to 9.1 million in the first quarter, from 8.9 million in 2003.

Sun Cellular has about half-a-million. subscribers.

Globe to settle $151M in bonds

THE BOARD of Globe Telecom Inc. has approved the settlement in August of $151 million in debt, which represents the balance of its 10-year bonds due in 2009, in favor of cheaper borrowings.

"Globe's decision to exercise its option to redeem these bonds in August is part of a liability management strategy to refinance more expensive debt," said the company in a statement.

The Ayala-controlled firm sold $220 million worth of 10-year bonds in August 1999 that carried a coupon of 13 percent. The national government had been able to raise dollars from the 10-year bond market at a coupon rate of 8.5 percent.

Listed firm Globe is 38-percent owned by Ayala Corp., 40 percent by Singapore Telecoms and 22 percent by the public. Globe has been trying to manage its debt to further improve its profitability.

The company reported a net income of P3.1 billion in the first quarter, up 52 percent from P2 billion a year ago.

Globe chief finance officer Delfin Gonzalez Jr. said the company would use the proceeds of a $50-million, 5-year loan signed last year as well as that of a P3-billion retail bond issue early this year to pay off bondholders.

The company said the balance of about $45 million would come from internally generated cash. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Banks warned vs high exposure in gov't notes

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has warned banks of the possible risks that may arise from a very high exposure in certain financial instruments, including government securities.

BSP Assistant Governor Nestor Espenilla said some banks had higher exposure in ROP (Republic of the Philippines) bonds compared with the others.

"It's a good practice for banks to maintain a diversified asset mix," Espenilla said.

There is currently no limit on how much banks can invest in government securities, which are deemed risk-free compared with regular loans.

But in general, the BSP imposes a single borrower's limit equivalent to 25 percent of any bank's unimpaired capital and surplus and a 5-percent cap on loans to large borrowers.

While there is no need yet to impose a separate ceiling on the banks' exposure in government securities, Espenilla said there was a need to be vigilant.

"We have a large exposure limit. An (over) exposure to anyone credit including government should be closely monitored," Espenilla said.

In 2003, there was a 31-percent increase in investments by foreign currency deposit units in ROP bonds and derivatives.

It was earlier reported that the BSP was probing local banks' growing risk exposure to credit-linked notes (CLNs) and other hedging instruments that use debt papers as underlying instruments.

A CLN is a pre-funded credit derivative instrument under which the holder of the notes effectively accepts the transfer of credit risk pertaining to an issuer's pool of assets. The repayment of the principal to the notes holder is contingent upon the occurrence of a defined credit event. In consideration, the notes holder receives an economic return reflecting the underlying credit risk of the pooled assets.

Another ranking BSP official likewise underscored the need for banks to diversify their investments.

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Deposit Amount (in pesos)	Term / Current Interest Rates (%)				
	30-60 days	61-90 days	91-180 days	181-364 days	1 year
100,000 - 299,999	5.25	5.50.	5.50	5.50	6.50
300,000 - 499,999	5.50	5.75	5.75	6.00	7.00
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	6.50	6.50	8.00
1,000,000 - 4,999,999	7.75	7.75	7.75	7.75	8.00
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3	PETER PAN
4	SCHOOL ROCK
5	PAYCHECK
6	ACACIA
7	I WILL SURVIVE
8	HELLBOY

SM CITY ILOILO (033) 3209422

1	UNINVITED
2	RESERVED
3	PAYCHECK
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	PETER PAN
6	HELLBOY
7	RESERVED
8	TAKING LIVES

SM CITY DAVAO (082) 2976998

1	VAN HELSING
2	PETER PAN
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4	PAYCHECK
5	VAN HELSING
6	HELLBOY

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884

1	TAKING LIVES
2	PETER PAN
3	THE CURSE
4	HELL BOY

—THE—
PODIUM
CINEMA

1
VAN HELSING
11:30 FS/12:00
MF/2:45/5:30/8:15/10:30
LFS/11:00 LMF/1:15 END

2
STARSKY & HUTCH
11:15FS/11:45
MF/2:00/4:15/6:30/8:45/
10:30 LFS/11:00
LMF/12:45 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

CINEMA

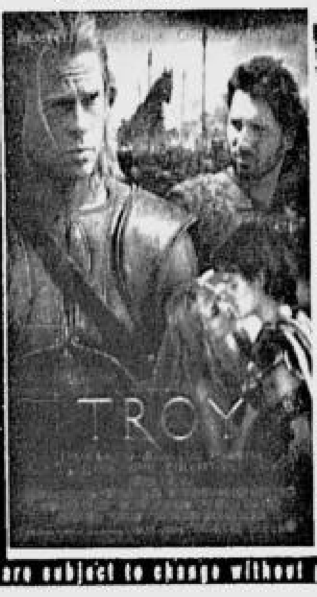

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PHOTO EXHIBIT

Don't miss the chance to see the scenes from the movie TROY in a photo exhibit to be held at the SM Megamall Cinema lobby starting May 2.

regular showing | may13 2004
at the SM Cinemas
Subject to MTRCB Rating

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

Globe pioneers collect mobile texting in the Philippines

GLOBE Handyphone pioneers another life-changing mobile phone application with the new Text Collect service. This service enables all Globe prepaid subscribers to send SMS to others on the Globe network, whether on a plan or another prepaid subscriber, even without prepaid load credits.

This innovation is expected to have considerable positive implications on a public that has come to be dependent on their mobile phones. Families will especially benefit from this new mode of accessibility. All a prepaid or postpaid benefactor has to do is register a maximum of 5 dependents in the service, which allows them to text him or her collect when they've run out of prepaid load credits.

Globe has been known for its understanding of its market's need for connectivity and accessibility, having been the first to introduce the commercially successful AutoLoadMAX over-the-air reloading scheme, and the Share-a-Load service which allows Globe plan and prepaid subscribers to send prepaid credits. These innovative applications have spurred Globe's acquisition on both the prepaid and postpaid fronts, boosting the telco giant's growth.

The Text Collect service is expected to add fuel to Globe's success this year, as the new application is seen by consumers as yet another reason to prefer Globe over the other networks. "Our subscribers need not worry about not being able to text when they run out of load. This is especially important during emergency situations. With the launch of Globe's Text Collect service, we are enabling our prepaid subscribers to send a text to another prepaid or Globe plan subscriber," said Matthew Y. Carreon, product manager for Postpaid Marketing.

Globe plan or prepaid subscribers can easily avail of the service by first registering a maximum of five Globe Handyphone numbers they want to enroll in their text collect list. Just type ADD<space><Globe Handyphone numbers they want to register> (ex: ADD 09176660353, 09164202070) and send to 2911. The enrollee and their registered Globe Handyphone number will both receive an SMS message confirming the successful registration.

Enrolled prepaid subscribers can text collect by just keying in <Texted party's Globe Handyphone number><space><message> (ex: 09175002500 Please call me) then send it to 2911. If the message was not received by the party being texted because the service was turned off, does not have sufficient load or is temporarily disconnected, the sending party will be notified via SMS that the transaction failed.

For very affordable rates, any Globe Handyphone subscriber can be constantly connected wherever they may be. Registering, adding, deleting, changing members on the Text Collect list, checking the number of transactions and turning the service on/off costs only P2.50 for both postpaid and prepaid whereas the actual Text Collect service is very affordable at P1.00.

To get more information on this service for free, just text HELP to 2911.

With the launch of another innovation like Text Collect, staying Globe-connected gives its subscribers first hand access to more life-changing breakthroughs.

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
2 (SDDS)	HELLBOY
3 DTS	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
4 GOLD (DTS)	MAN OF FIRE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	WHOLE TEN YARDS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
8	I WILL SURVIVE
9	SCHOOL OF ROCK
10	BIG FISH

EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 DOLBY	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
2 DOLBY	VAN HELSING
3 DOLBY	STARSKY & HUTCH
4 DOLBY	I WILL SURVIVE

Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 833.3274

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	VAN HELSING
3	ANIMAL

starmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	I WILL SURVIVE
	WHOLE 10 YARD
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	VAN HELSING
5	

METROPOLIS star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	CHECK - INN
2	ANIMAL
3	HELLBOY
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	VAN HELSING
6	HAUNTED SPIRIT

M star www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	VAN HELSING
2	I WILL SURVIVE

PREMIERE CINEMA (Makati City) tel 892.2503 LUCASFILM THX

Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BOOBITA ROSE
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	EVIL - 4
2	MY GOOD LAWYERS WIFE
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

5	RESERVE
6	
7 (DTS)	
8 (SDDS)	
9 (DOLBY)	

Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ANIMAL
2	HELLBOY
3	MAN OF FIRE
4 (SDDS)	STARSKY & HUTCH
5	I WILL SURVIVE
6 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
7 (DTS)	VAN HELSING
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083

1	RESERVE
2 (SDDS)	
3 (DTS)	
4 (DOLBY)	
5	

Gotesco Ortigas tel 656.6795

1	MAN ON FIRE
2	ITLOG
3 (DTS)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4	ANIMAL
5	VAN HELSING

Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	CARMEN
Lords	MEN'S

MARKETMALL Mandaluyong tel 533.3051 / 533.3856

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	VAN HELSING
3	VENUS
4	RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	VAN HELSING
2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	RESERVE
4	I WILL SURVIVE
5	ANIMAL

Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	KILL BILL
2	ANIMAL

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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4 (SDDS)	VAN HELSING
5 (DTS)	JERSEY GIRL
6	CONFESSION OF DRAMA QUEEN
7	HELLBOY

Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	MAN OF FIRE
2	BONE SNATCHERS
3 (DTS ES)	I WILL SURVIVE
4	CARMEN

Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	HOUSE DEAD
3 (DOLBY)	MAN OF FIRE
4	BONE SNATCHERS

Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	PETER PAN
2	TAKING LIVES
3 (DOLBY)	BUTTERFLY EFFECTS
4	PASSION OF THE CHRIST

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	SCHOOL OF ROCK
3 (DTS)	HELLBOY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2 (DTS)	HELLBOY
3 (DOLBY)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
3 (DTS)	SCHOOL OF ROCK
4	WHOLE 10 YARD

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) t (045) 9821727

1	PETER PAN
2	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
3 (DOLBY)	TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	PETER PAN
2	PAY CHECK
3 (DOLBY)	PASSION OF THE CHRIST
4 (DTS)	TAKING LIVES

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795-3320

1	STARSKY & HUTCH
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	MAN OF FIRE

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DDS)	TWISTED
2	CHECK - INN
3	I WILL SURVIVE
4 (DTS)	DALAWANG PISNGI

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HELLBOY
2	BONE SNATCHERS
3 (DTS)	I WILL SURVIVE
4	SCHOOL OF ROCK
5	WHOLE 10 YARD

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	I WILL SURVIVE
2	NAGDADALAGA

Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558

1	WHOLE 10 YARD
2	I WILL SURVIVE
3	HOUSE OF THE DEAD

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	ANIMAL
2	TAKING LIVES
3 (DTS)	PASSION OF CHRIST
4 (DOLBY)	PAY CHECK

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel 520.8914

1 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HELLBOY
2	WHOLE 10 YARD
3	MAN OF FIRE
4	STARSKY & HUTCH

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	CHECK - INN
2	TAKING LIVES

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

ARNOLD R. CRUZ, whose last known address is Bustos, Bulacan is advised to coordinate with the DSWD Field Office 3, Tarlac City, Tel. No. (045)982-3195 regarding the adoption of a child he abandoned on July 20, 1992. Mr. & Mrs. Antonio C. Bañaga are interested to adopt said child
(PDI-April 29, May 6 & 13, 2004)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ODILIA C. SONGCO was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share among her heirs as per Doc. No. 56, Page 13, Book No. 10, Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Jimmy D. Laceral of Mandaluyong City (PDI-April 29, May 6 and 13, 2004)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE PRISCILLA T. ARROYO WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HER HEIRS AS PER DOC. 312, PAGE 63, BOOK NO. 211, SERIES OF 2004 BY NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. SILVERIO I IBAY, SR. OF QUEZON CITY. (PDI-April, 22, 29 and May 6 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice of Loss 1Booklet of Official Receipts Nos 002-0050 of THREE G SOURCES AND PROMOTIONS INC. Vat Reg Tin# 226246242000 was lost in Nov 2003. Any of these OR's issued after date of loss will be considered null and void and will not be honored.
(PDI - May 5, 2004)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Supply and Delivery of Manageable and Reliable Ethernet Switches for the Branches in support of the New Integrated Deposit Servicing System (NIDSS) Project	**P2,920,000.00**

Project Date Completion: July 30, 2004

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-Bidding Conference	**May 18, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., 6/F OPS Conference Room, DBP Head Office**
Submission and Opening of Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	**On or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. 6/F OPS, DBP Head Office**

Application for eligibility check is open to all Information and Communication Technology (ICT) suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been in the supply, delivery and installation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for at least three (3) years, must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from the Procurement Services Division, 6th floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Submission of the required eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals shall be made **on or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., 6/F DBP Head Office.**

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone numbers 8129428/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 6 & 13, 2004)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET
Supply and Delivery of Eight (8) units – TOYOTA COROLLA XL 1.3L with LPG Conversion Kit	**P5,000,000.00**

Project Date Completion: July 30, 2004

Schedule of Activities:

Pre-Bidding Conference	**May 18, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., 6/F OPS Conference Room, DBP Head Office**
Submission and Opening of Eligibility Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	**On or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. 6/F OPS, DBP Head Office**

Application for eligibility check is open to suppliers registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission/Department of Trade and Industry and has been a licensed **TOYOTA CAR DEALER** for at least three (3) years and must be at least 60% Filipino-owned (for partnership and corporations). Interested suppliers may secure the Eligibility Requirement Form from the Procurement Services Division, 6th floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at www.devbankphil.com.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Submission of the required eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals shall be made **on or before May 31, 2004 at 10:00 a.m., 6/F DBP Head Office.**

The Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 series of 2003 will be used in the conduct of this Bidding.

The Bank reserves the right to reject documents that do not comply with the requirements.

For further inquiries, please call Mr. Manuel A. Tagalo at telephone numbers 8129428/8151613.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 6 & 13, 2004)

VICTORIAS
MILLING COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE TO ALL NON-BANK CREDITORS

Please be informed that under the approved **Alternative Rehabilitation Plan (ARP) of Victorias Milling Company, Inc. (VMC)**, payment of twenty five percent (25%) of VMC's liabilities to its non-bank creditors listed in the Petition filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, based on such amounts as indicated therein, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Debt Restructuring Agreement under the said ARP of the Company has been provided. **The payment has been scheduled on or before August 31, 2004.**

In view thereof, we are inviting **all VMC Non-Bank Creditors listed in the Petition filed with the SEC** to attend a **meeting on May 14, 2004 at 9:00 A.M.** to be held at the **Victorias Golf & Country Club, Inc., VICMICO, Victorias City**, for *Visayas-based non-bank creditors*, and on **May 19, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.** to be held at the **Metropolitan Club, Inc., Estrella cor. Amapola Sts., Guadalupe, Makati City**, for *Luzon-based non-bank creditors*, to discuss the terms and conditions of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement to be entered into between VMC and the non-bank creditors to effect the intended payment.

To ensure a smooth and speedy processing of the necessary documents for this purpose, please send to our **Controller, Ms. Teresita V. Ilagan through our VICMICO Victorias Office**, a Board Resolution stating the name/s of your authorized representative/s and designated signatories to the said MOA **on or before May 12, 2004.** Sole proprietorships are requested to send to the above-named Controller of VMC a Special Power of Attorney naming their duly authorized representative/s or agent/s for the same purpose.

(Sgd.) ARTHUR N. AGUILAR
President & CEO

(PDI – MAY 6, 2004)

COMELEC HOTLINE

525-9345 • 525-9296 • 525-9295 • 525-9294
525-9301 • 525-9302 • 525-9334 • 525-9335

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TAN TANG VDA. DE GONZALES (TY PIAK HA)

Peacefully joined her Creator on May 4, 2004 at the age of 94.

Her loving husband **Sinforoso** (†); children **Ruperto** (†), **Vicente** (†), **Antonio** (†) & **Milagros**, **Manuel** & **Alice**, **Ricardo** & **Lilia**, **George** and **Sate** (†), **Rodolfo** and **Hermina**, **Francisco** & **Beatriz**, **Lan Eng** & **Beng Uh** (†), **Siu Lan** & **Kimsa** and **Lucia** & **Lucio**; grandchildren and great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Superior Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 9, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. at The Heritage Memorial Park.

---

*"One thing I ask of the Lord;
this I seek: to dwell in the Lord's house
all the days of my life..."*
Psalm 27:4

Emelyn Palacios De La Torre

October 12, 1951 – May 5, 2004

Her bereaved husband Chief Superintendent **Quirino De La Torre**; children **Moppet** (†), **Iris**, **Chino**; relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Christ the King Church, Chapel C, along Green Meadows Avenue, Libis, Quezon City.

Cremation will be held at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City on May 7, 2004 at 12:00 noon after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

---

*So dearly loved...
So fondly remembered
So truly missed*

†

ROSALINA "NENA" BANZON FERNANDO

Wife of the late **ANTONIO "TUNYING" B. FERNANDO, SR.**
of Malabon, Metro Manila & Balanga, Bataan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 3, 2004 at the age of 77 years old.

Her loving children **ANTONIO JR (BOY) & SALLY, MARITES & BUTCH, RAMON & MARINA, DANILO & MYLENE, ARTURO & MARIVIC**; grandchildren **JAN-JAN, JANEL, MAC-MAC, RON-RON, OLAN, HANNAH, ALVIN** and other relatives deeply mourn her demise and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Nacional (Chapel 2-A), G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 8, 2004 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heaven..."
Ecclesiastes 3:11

In Loving Memory
on the 14th Death Anniversary of

(Ret.) Major Hermito P. Herrera

of BF Executive West, BF Las Piñas City & Wawa, Pilar, Bataan
November 2, 1919 – May 7, 1990

Masses will be offered on Friday, May 7, 2004 at the following:

Parish of the Resurrection, BF Parañaque	6:30 p.m.
Presentation of the Child Jesus, BF Parañaque	6:45 a.m.
Jesus, the Divine Healer, Tahanan Village, Parañaque	6:30 p.m.
Our Lady of the Pillar, Pillar Village, Las Piñas City	6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph's Cathedral, Balanga, Bataan	6:30 p.m.
Nstra. Sra. del Pilar, Pilar, Bataan	5:45 a.m.
Our Lady of the Abandoned, Sta. Ana, Manila	6:30 a.m.
Nstra. Sra. de Guia Church, Ermita, Manila	6:00 a.m.

His children Baby & Tony Paez, Malou & Jessie Villegas, Boy & Cely Herrera, Gerry & Lot Herrera, Roland & Ditas Herrera; grandchildren Margs, John, Cocoy, Jesselle, Myka, Issa, Angelica, Julianna, Migs, Gabriel, Faye, Lorenzo; brother, sisters, in-laws, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious readers to remember MITO in their prayers

---

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
➊ Copy of Death Certificate
➋ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

PASEGURUHAN NG MGA NAGLILINGKOD SA PAMAHALAAN
(GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM)
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

PHYSICAL RESOURCES BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM** invites all interested proponents to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects/items:

Project/Item	Approved Budget for the Contract
Lot 1 – Provision of Security and Protection Services for the GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City	P 21,168,000.00
Lot 2 – Provision of Security and Protection Services for the GSIS Former Offices and District Offices	P 10,584,000.00

Interested proponents must submit a letter of intent and the basic eligibility requirements to the Chairperson, Physical Resources Bids and Awards Committee (PRBAC) c/o PRBAC Secretariat, Materials Management Department (MMD), Level 1, Core B, GSIS Financial Center, Pasay City starting May 6, 2004 to May 17, 2004 from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. After the said date, no application for registration will be entertained.

Basic Eligibility Requirements to be submitted:

1. DTI/SEC Registration Certificate, Articles of Incorporation and latest amendments, if any
2. Current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License/Certificate
3. TIN Certificate of Registration
4. Sworn statement that the company is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation and that the company is in operation for at least the last three (3) years.

Bid documents shall be issued only to registered proponents who will be notified in writing by the PRBAC upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 per bid document. The time for issuance of bid documents shall be during office hours from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

A pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 AM on May 18, 2004 at the PRS Lounge, Level 1, Core B, GSIS Building.

The submission and opening of sealed bids shall be on June 1, 2004, 9:00 AM, PRS Lounge, Level 1, Core B, GSIS Building, Pasay City. The bidding will be pursued in accordance with RA 9184 Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) and other applicable rules and laws.

The GSIS/PRBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect(s) of formality on the bids received and accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the System, but does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **JOY C. LEGASPI**
Chairperson

(PDI-May 6 & 13, 2004)

P O E A

24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144
722-1155

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JOEL A. ASDILLO
Accountant

This is to inform the public that JOEL A. ASDILLO of 650 Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila and 283 Canela St., Zamboanga City, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with Almeda, Incorporated or any of its affiliate businesses effective March 20, 2004. He has been charged of robbery, docketed as I.S. No. 04-D 5992, with the Office of the City Prosecutor, Makati City.

Any transaction entered into or made through him for the company shall not be honored.

(PDI – May 6, 2004)

Galing Pilipino spreads in Vis-Min

GALING Pilipino Movement (GPM) holds a series of Kapihans or discussion forums in key cities in Visayas and Mindanao to marshal the establishment of GPM chapters in the countryside. GPM is a private sector initiative of citizens that aim to propagate the good qualities of being Pilipino. It is driven by its active members or volunteers called I-Gilas *(Ilabas ang Gilas)* whose mission is to "spot" and recognize Pilipinos who do ordinary things extraordinarily well thereby manifesting the 'Galing Pilipino' spirit in them.

GPM president and founder Erly de Guzman will meet with civic, business and academic leaders in the cities of Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Butuan and Cebu to shepherd the movement and expand linkages in these areas where a number of members are already present. "Our vision is to make this movement a platform for creating a culture of affirmation that will evolve a commendable sense of national pride. Through our GPM I-Gilas recognition program, we are out to qualify and define what excellence means to the Pilipino, eventually making 'galing' the brand mark of our nation and our people," de Guzman said.

Established in June 12, 2002, with an initial membership of 70, GPM has grown to 414 members by the end of 2002, and about 1,300 to date. From being largely NCR-based, GPM expands its membership this year to include individuals and organizations from the countryside. GPM has also maintained strong support from its partners in the corporate sector, notably the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chowking, Manila Broadcasting Company, Procter & Gamble, the Victoria Court Group and others who share GPM's faith in the potentials of the Filipino.

Here in Metro Manila, GPM has held 21 Galing Pilipino Kapihans to date, with about 2,000 participants discussing and learning business ideas and innovative solutions to common problems from "Galing Pilipino" models who have excelled in their respective fields.

For more details about the Galing Pilipino Movement, contact GPM Foundation at tels. (02)6313932; (02) 6331089; mobile: 0917-8354829, url: www.galingpilipino.com or e-mail inquiry@galingpilipino.com.

UPPC

UNITED PULP AND PAPER COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF SALE OF DELINQUENT SHARES OF STOCK

Notice is hereby given that the following delinquent shares of stock in United Pulp and Paper Company, Inc. will be sold at public auction to such bidders who shall offer to pay the full amount of the balance on the subscriptions together with accrued interest, cost of advertisement and expenses of sale, for the smallest number of shares or fraction of a share in accordance with Section 68 of the Corporation Code.

The following stocks covered by unpaid subscriptions have become delinquent as of April 15, 2004 and will be subject for sale on May 17, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the office of the Corporation located at the 5th Floor of the Phinma Plaza, 39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City:

Subscribers	Number of Shares	Balance due on subscription
Alsons Consolidated Resources, Inc.	594,196	P10,695,528
Drury Realty Corporation	78,660	1,415,880
Pampanga Sugar Development Company	52,440	743,920
Michael Escaler	21,413	179,869
Ricarte Santos	4,764	85,752

Makati, Metro Manila, April 20, 2004

(Sgd.) **JUAN J. DIAZ**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--April 29 & May 6, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City
Tel. No.: 3378812 / 3373549 / 3376006 / Telefax: 3364219

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO REBID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Unit No. 6, Iloilo City invites all interested dealers/suppliers of fertilizers to apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the procurement of the following items:

4,397 bags	46-0-0 (Urea)
879 bags	Complete Fertilizer (14-14-14)
586 bags	Di-ammonium Phosphate (16-20-0)
5,862 bags	

Allocation/Distribution by Province:

Aklan	–	1,582 bags	Urea
Antique	–	938 bags	Urea
Capiz	–	879 bags	Urea
Guimaras	–	60 bags	Urea
Iloilo	–	938 bags	Urea
Neg. Occ.	–	879 bags	14-14-14
		586 bags	16-20-0

Approved Budget : P 2, 931,000.00
Minimum Required Bid Security : 73,275.00

The following are the related activities and schedule:

• Deadline for submission of Letter of Intent & Eligibility Requirements	May 13, 2004 Nnot later than 5:00 p.m.
• Issuance of Bid documents	May 17, 2004
• Pre Bid Conference	May 21, 2004 9:00 a.m. DA War Room
• Deadline for Submission of Bids	June 2, 2004 9:30 a.m. DA War Room
• Opening of Bids	June 2, 2004 10:00 a.m. DA War Room

Bid proposals exceeding the stated Approved Budget shall be rejected outright.

All Bids shall be marked "DO NOT OPEN BEFORE (date & time of opening of Bids)" and addressed as follows:

The Chairman, BAC
Department of Agriculture RFU6
Parola, Iloilo City
Bid No. 2004-04

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defects or formality therein, and accept responsive proposals most advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidders for expenses and losses that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RICARDO D. OBLENA, CESO III**
Regional Executive Director

(PDI – April 30 & May 6, 2004)

CAPITOL MASONIC CORPORATION

35 MATALINO STREET, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY
TEL./FAX NO. 434-5778

April 25, 2004

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF THE CAPITOL MASONIC CORPORATION:

Please be informed that the Board of Directors during its regular meeting held on April 16, 2004 approved the following RESOLUTIONS:

I. POSTPONEMENT OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

"That the Annual Regular Stockholders' Meeting of the Capitol Masonic Corporation on May 15, 2004 (3rd Saturday) in accordance with its By-Laws, has been postponed and scheduled to be held on **August 28, 2004** at 5:00 p.m. at the Capitol Masonic Temple, Katarungan corner Kalayaan Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City." (Per Board Resolution No. 04-04-04); and,

II. EXTENSION OF TIME TO SUBSCRIBE SHARES OF STOCK

"That the offer to subscribe shares of stock of the Capitol Masonic Corporation to each stockholder on record (by pre-emptive right) as of January 31, 2004, which expires April 30, 2004, has been EXTENDED UNTIL JULY 31, 2004, subject to the same terms and conditions set forth in the original offer. (Per Board Resolution No. 05-04-04).

(Sgd.) **ATTY. BENEDICTO A. MADARANG**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI - May 6, 2004)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Bids and Awards Committee for Information Technology (BAC-IT)
Quezon City

May 4, 2004

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	:	**PROCUREMENT OF SEVEN HUNDRED (700) MICROCOMPUTERS**
Location of the Project	:	**Bureau of Internal Revenue**
Contract Duration	:	**Thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award**
Approved Budget	:	**P42,000,000.00**
Source of Funding	:	**e-Government Fund**

All interested parties may obtain the bidding documents from the BAC-IT Secretariat, c/o Room 605, 6/F, BIR-National Office Bldg., BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City starting **May 6, 2004**, upon payment of non-refundable fee of P8,400.00.

Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **May 20, 2004** at **2:00 p.m.** at the **Executive Conference Room,** 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City.

Deadline for the submission of eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals shall be on **June 4, 2004, Friday at 1:30 p.m.**, to be held at the **Executive Conference Room,** 3/F BIR-National Office Building, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City to be followed by the opening of the bids.

All particulars relative to eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids, post-qualification and award of contract shall be governed by the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and its implementing ruels and regulations.

The BIR assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any excuse or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids. The BIR also reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any of the required formality therein and accept the bids most advantageous to the government.

For particulars, please inquire from the BAC-IT Secretariat, thru the Chief, SSTMD-IPQS at Room 302, 3/F, Revenue Computer Center (RCC) Bldg., BIR Compound, BIR Road, Brgy. Piñahan, Diliman, Quezon City or call telephone nos. 981-7085, 927-4101 (telefax), 981-7079 and 981-7080 or e-mail us at lilibeth.maranan@bir.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. LEONOR S. VILLALON-ROGERS**
Assistant Commissioner - HRDS
Chairman, BAC-IT

(PDI - May 6 & 13, 2004)

PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

A Subsidiary of Bases Conversion Development Authority

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **PORO POINT MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (PPMC)** is inviting all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit bid if eligible, to provide security services.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of P5,015,863.148 shall come from PPMC corporate funds.

Eligibility Statement Forms, Terms of Reference and Bid Documents shall be made available to interested firms on the date and place mentioned below upon payment of a non-refundable amount of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00).

Schedule of Procurement Activities:

Activity	Dates	Time	Place
Issuance of Eligibility Statement Forms, TOR and Bid Documents	May 14, 2004	8.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.	PPMC Admin Bldg. Pennsylvania Ave., Poro Point San Fernando City, La Union
Pre-Bid Conference	May 17, 2004	2:00 p.m.	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union
Submission and Opening of Eligibility Statement Forms and Bids	June 8, 2004	9:00 a.m.	Pre-Departure Area, Terminal Building, San Fernando Airport, Canaoay, San Fernando City, La Union

Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. Only the bids of the eligible firms shall be opened. All bids shall be evaluated in accordance with RA 9184 and its IRR.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the required services, you may contact Major Joel G. Caringal at telephone no. (072) 888-5955.

(Sgd.) **ANTHONY C. MANGUIAT**
Chairman, BAC

(PDI April 29 & May 6, 2004)

OBITUARIES

JOVENCIO A. ENCINA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on April 30, 2004 at Long Beach, California
at the age of 77.

His bereaved wife **Natalia Nipay**; children **Jocelyn (†), Edwin & Cherie**; grandchildren **Rhett Kevin (†), Jed, Kyle & Christabelle**; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His body lies in state at La Funeraria Paz Sucat, Inc. inside Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on May 9, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

ATTY. CRISPIN C. GONZALES

...peacefully joined our Creator
on May 3, 2004 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Josefina "Pening" Mendiola Gonzales**; children **Ma. Cristina, Edwin Crispin, Melvyn, Allan Leslie, Hansel Glenn**; in-laws **Maricor** and **Leah**; grandchildren **Dana, Rap-Rap, Paolo** and other relatives request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 12, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Arlington Chapel.

Father LOPE CASTILLO, MSC

Returned to the Father on Wednesday, May 5, 2004
at the age of 68.

Together with his bereaved relatives, the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) requests you for your prayers and entrusts him to the Lord of whose Heart he always was a faithful missionary.

His remains will lie in state at the MSC Scholasticate (10, 17th Street, New Manila, Quezon City) on May 5 and May 7, and the Catholic Chapel, Central Luzon State University (Muñoz, N.E.) on May 6, 2004.

Interment will be on May 8, at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Caloocan City, after a Eucharistic Celebration at 9:00 a.m. at the MSC Scholasticate.

BUSINESS

Dollar, Asian stocks weak as US Fed leaves key rates unchanged

SINGAPORE—The dollar struck a one-month low against the euro on Wednesday after the Federal Reserve said it would raise rates at a "measured" pace, cooling talk of sharp increases but worrying stock investors that a rise was imminent.

Shares fell in Hong Kong and were poised to open weaker in Europe after the Fed left interest rates unchanged but suggested it was nearer an increase.

Taiwan stocks sank more than 5 percent on worries over an imminent recount of a disputed presidential election. Japan was closed for a holiday.

Royal Bank of Scotland Plc. will be the focus of London stock trade after agreeing to buy Charter One Financial Inc. of the United States for $10.5 billion in cash.

In Hong Kong, Harbin Brewery Group Ltd. soared 47 percent as a $553-million takeover bid by SAB-Miller Plc. set up a battle for the Chinese beer maker with shareholder Anheuser-Busch Cos Ltd.

Oil prices held near their highest close in more than 13 years after surging on concerns that violence in Saudi Arabia and Iraq could disrupt supplies. Gold hit a one-week high.

The 10-year US Treasury yield remained near an eight-month high after bond prices fell following the Fed's comments on Tuesday, which bolstered expectations of a rate rise in August.

The Fed said after a policy meeting that price risks were balanced and it would move at a "measured" pace, disappointing investors who were looking for a more hawkish statement.

"The statement provided no new information to the market in terms of deciding the timing of the Fed's rate hike in this cycle," said Bhanu Baweja, currency strategist at UBS in Singapore.

That pulled the dollar lower in US trade and it eased further in Asia, hitting a one-month low around $1.2140 against the euro before clawing back to $1.2112 by 0600 GMT. Against the yen, the dollar was steady at 109.50 yen.

The Australian central bank also kept rates on hold, leaving the country's dollar steady around 73 US cents and helping to nudge its stock market benchmark up half a percent.

With Japanese markets closed for the third day of the Golden Week holidays, an MSCI index of shares elsewhere in the Asia Pacific fell 0.4 percent. South Korea was also on holiday.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index fell one percent by midday on worries over higher US rates, but Harbin soared to HK$4.75 a share, well above the HK$4.30 offered by SAB-Miller, suggesting investors anticipated a takeover battle with 29 percent shareholder Anheuser-Busch.

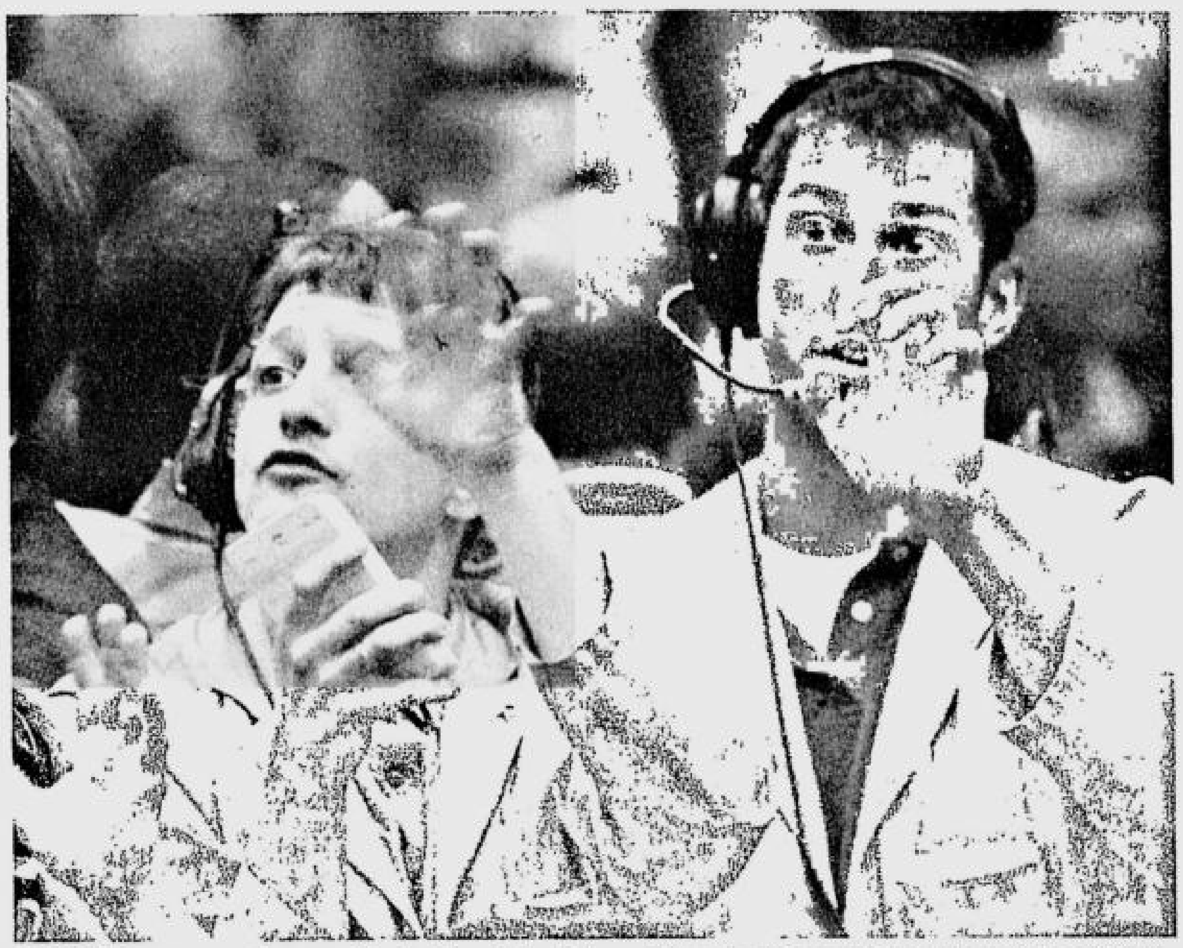
Taiwan slumped 5.4 percent to its lowest level since the end of 2003 amid worries over a 10-day election recount starting on May 10. Singapore rose a third of a percent by lunch time.

In New York, the Dow Jones industrial average hardly moved, while the Nasdaq Composite Index advanced 0.6 percent.

US Treasury bond prices fell on the Fed's hint that rates would rise and wariness ahead of Friday's April jobs report, expected to show another month of employment gains.

Hefty orders for factory goods in March were seen as proof of a resurging economy and added to the pressure on the Fed to boost rates, perhaps as soon as this summer.

The benchmark 10-year note slid 16/32 to 95-18/32, pushing its yield up to 4.57 percent—matching last week's eight-month high—and well above Monday's closing yield of 4.50 percent. The price edged up in Asia. *Reuters*



TRADERS gesture as they work in the Eurodollar Futures Pit at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) May 4in Chicago, Illinois. US Federal Reserve policymakers froze key short-term interest rates at a 1958 low but, faced with a humming economy, said rates can eventually rise at a "measured" pace. AFP

Rodrigo Rato named new IMF chief

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund chose former Spanish Finance Minister Rodrigo Rato as its new managing director.

RATO

"The executive board of the International Monetary Fund today selected Rodrigo Rato to serve as managing director and chair of the executive board for a five-year term," the IMF said in a statement.

The IMF's 24-member executive board chose Rato by consensus after a straw poll showed he had a support of a majority of board members, it said. He is to serve a five-year term, replacing Horst Koehler, who resigned in March.

Rato, 55, was virtually guaranteed to win the post after securing the backing of Europeans, the United States and leading Latin American powers.

He was the European Union's favored candidate, and also garnered support from other major industrialized countries such as Canada and Japan.

Many developing countries, however, criticized the selection process for its lack of inclusiveness and transparency even as they accepted Rato as the next IMF chief.

Out of five original nominees for the post, three withdrew, leaving just Rato and New York-born Mohamed el-Erian, an emerging-market bond fund manager, as candidates.

The IMF has loans outstanding of $107 billion (91 billion euros) to 87 countries. By unwritten rule, the managing director is a European while the president of its sister institution, the World Bank, is reserved for an American. *AFP*

Coal prices soaring

SHANGHAI—Coal prices have more than doubled to record highs in the past year, ravaging the profits of power producers and steel makers such as Korea Electric Corp. (Kepco) and Baoshan Iron and Steel Corp. and putting upward pressure on global inflation.

The pressure has been felt particularly in the Asia region. Countries bordering China are suffering from its insatiable demand. The main users of coal are the power generation, steel and cement industries. The regional shortage is due to China turning away business to keep its coal-fired economy humming.

"The overheated investment in some industries, such as steel, aluminum and cement, plus sluggish consumption, are the key forces behind energy shortages in China," said Chen Tonghai, president of Sinopec Corp. (SNP), China's second-largest oil producer.

Coal prices delivered to Taiwan have increased 125 percent compared to last year, particularly over the last few months, putting financial pressure on companies such as Taipower and Taiwan Cement Corp.

In the Philippines, the state-run National Power Corp. is struggling to close deals with coal providers even at double last year's prices fearing higher spot prices later this year.

"With the position we now have in the world, a cut in exports would have untold impact on global markets," said Li Tinghe, chair of the Shanxi Coal Import & Export Group.

In Japan, power and cement companies are also feeling the heat. Japanese power companies, such as Chubu Electric Power Co. and Tohokuyu Electric Power Co., import about 80 percent of their coal through long-term contracts with Australian and other mining firms.

RP kept on US watch list of leading IPR violators

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED States has kept the Philippines on its priority watch list of countries violating intellectual property rights.

This was mainly due to the unabated increase in the piracy of digital audio and video discs and computer software.

Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said yesterday the government would step up its efforts to protect IPRs to finally remove the Philippines from the priority list under the so-called Special 301 Report.

The report groups violators into four classes: priority foreign countries, PWL, watch list and Section 306.

The PWL enumerates countries that have "inadequate" measures to protect IPRs of American companies and individuals.

This is the second highest classification after the priority foreign countries.

Countries on the PWL are subject to fast-tracked investigations and possible sanctions.

There are 15 PWL countries in this year's report, including India, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan and Taiwan.

"(The Philippines was not removed from the list) despite the many initiatives and breakthroughs that the government has achieved over the last few months in IPR enforcement," Purisima said.

However, Purisima said the US government cited the country for having passed a law that would help fight piracy of optical media or video discs.

He quoted the US Embassy's acting division chief of mission Morton Holbrook, who told him in a letter that "the US appreciates the government of the Philippines' efforts to address these concerns and will continue to use the bilateral trade and investments framework agreement to address specific elements included in the IPR action plan concerning judicial, legislative and enforcement issues."

Purisima said that aside from the enactment of the optical media disc law, the government had been working with the private sector to ensure that IPRs were honored.

The official said that last week, the Department of Trade and Industry brokered an agreement between the Contact Center Association of the Philippines and the Business Software Alliance on IPR protection.

The agreement provides for the auditing of computer systems used by contact center companies to check against use of pirated software.

Purisima said that the DTI and the Bureau of Customs were also exploring ways to curb the entry of fake and pirated goods in the country.

"We hope that our previous and recent efforts will bear fruit as more companies comply with IPR laws by using the legitimate software and that retailers would sell only genuine products," he said.

DOTC inks deal to build ₱4.4-B airport

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE TRANSPORTATION department yesterday signed a contract with a Japanese consortium to start the construction of the much-delayed P4.4-billion world-class regional airport in Silay, Bacolod.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the new Bacolod airport should be completed by 2006.

The Philippines secured funding for the project from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation in 1999.

Construction was supposed to start in 2000 and finished by 2002 but right-of-way problems stalled the project.

The government had been paying a commitment fee for the financing since the loan agreement was signed five years ago.

The government yesterday signed a contract with Takenaka-Itochu Joint Venture System, the lowest bidder among three groups that competed for the project.

The transportation department said that the joint venture's bid was about 4 percent lower than the government's estimate of P4.5 billion.

The new airport would be built within a 188-hectare property in Silay, 14 kilometers north of Bacolod City.

"The project aims to improve the facilities of Bacolod airport in order to satisfy operational safety requirements in accordance with international civil aviation standards and to effectively cope with the increasing air traffic demand," Mendoza said.

The Bacolod airport is part of the DOTC's airport modernization program.

Presidential candidates back agri agenda

THE FIVE presidential candidates have approved in principle the proposed Presidential Agriculture Agenda proposed by Alyansa Agrikultura, the largest coalition of farmers and fisherfolk composed of 38 organizations.

The Alyansa formulated this agenda through nationwide consultations for over a year and submitted this to each presidential candidate before the campaign period began.

"The five candidates approved in principle our proposed Presidential Agriculture Agenda with its special attention given to small farmers and fisherfolk," said Ernesto Ordoñez, Alyansa Agrikultura national coordinator.

"However, there were differences when it came to the agenda's six priority items."

Ordoñez reported that Sen. Raul Roco and Bro. Eddie Villanueva agreed with all the items. President Macapagal-Arroyo and Sen. Panfilo Lacson had one reservation each, while Fernando Poe Jr. had two.

The four agenda items which were unanimously agreed upon by the candidates were: where allowed, freeze or increase tariffs on agriculture products where the competitive countries have not appropriately decreased their subsidies for these products; maintain quantitative restriction on rice importation beyond 2005 until adequate support structures are in place.

The candidates also agreed to fast-track land reform with the necessary support services and women property rights protection so that the farmer is better rather than worse off and prosecute and jail smugglers, as well as stop the importation of products with bio security risks.

Ordoñez announced that the Alyansa will organize a national convention to take up this agenda with whoever wins in the presidential elections soon after May 10.

Opec producing over quota, world market well supplied

JAKARTA—The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is producing 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) more than its official output limit and there is enough oil in the market even as global prices remained high, the head of the producers' cartel said on Wednesday.

Asked by reporters if the cartel would raise its official production limit at a meeting in Beirut on June 3 as world oil prices climbed above 13-year highs, Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said: "I am in communication with the Opec Secretariat and (we are) still studying the development.

"We have to see what's the reason behind (the high prices). We have a leakage at 1.5 million bpd above official quota. We assure the market that there is enough oil."

World oil prices rallied to their highest level in more than 13 years on Tuesday as Middle East violence kindled concerns over supply security with US fuel inventories already running low.

NYMEX June crude futures kept a strong tone on Wednesday at $38.84 a barrel, down 14 cents, after settling at $38.98 a day earlier, its highest since the run-up to the Gulf War in October 1990 after Iraq had seized Kuwait.

When asked why Opec had not raised the official output ceiling to match that of actual production, Purnomo, who is also Indonesia's oil minister, said: "At the moment, with the leakage at 1.5 million bpd, that means we are already producing more than the quota. This is not a problem (for Opec) because the price now continues to be high."

Purnomo said that while Opec had implemented an April 1 decision to cut its official limit by one million bpd to 23.5 million bpd, it had also continued a "leakage of 1.5 million bpd."

A Reuters survey released on Tuesday found that Opec production fell in April from March as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cut back exports, going some way toward implementing a cartel agreement to reduce production.

The 10 members of Opec with quotas pumped 25.75 million bpd, trimming production by 360,000 bpd from March, the survey of consultants, shippers, industry and Opec sources showed.

Total output from Opec for the month dropped 360,000 bpd to 28.06 million bpd, as Iraq failed to raise exports, the survey showed.

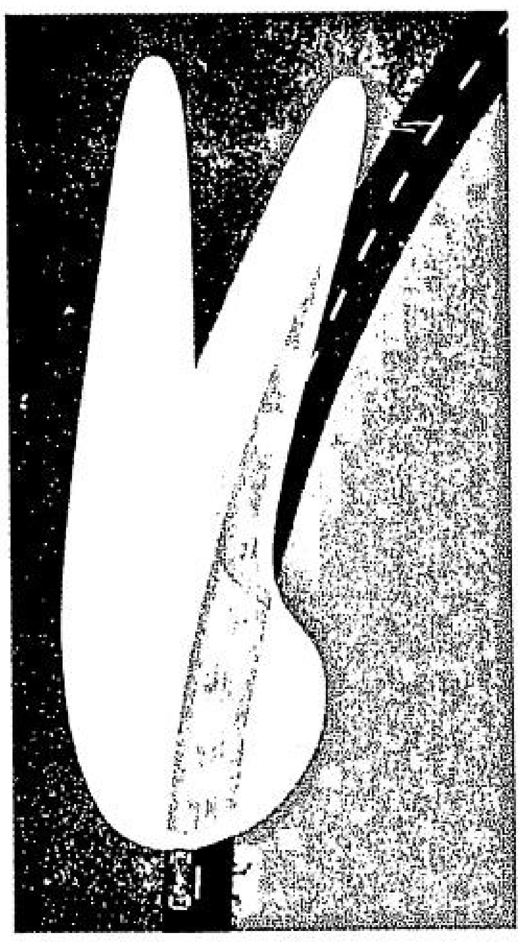
Opec member Kuwait said this week that persistently high oil prices would encourage Opec to keep pumping above official output limits, adding that there was a 3.0-3.5 million bpd overhang in production. *Reuters*

MOTORING

E-mail: pr_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Intense headlight beams can cause accidents



STANDARD RHD pattern (white beam) footprint on the road SOURCE: DAIMLERCHRYSLER

By Tessa R. Salazar

DON'T be like moths drawn to flame. Don't go toward the intense light if you're driving.

They come in all shapes and sizes, and in different positions, too. They may be situated above or below your line of sight, above or below your rear view mirror. They are headlights that generate intense blinding beams, and they can be disorienting for fellow drivers and pedestrians.

Headlight intensity

This summer, many vehicles are trying to rival the sun in terms of headlight intensity. This situation can take a deadly turn, especially if many drivers in this season of long hauls and family trips have been driving long hours at night. Try some night driving in the countryside and count how many oncoming vehicles actually switch to low beams. Chances are you'd see just two out of maybe 10 vehicles.

When you frantically alternate between high and low beam to signal the oncoming driver to switch his lights to low, chances are the other driver would just turn off the headlights, which would be his or her way of saying "Sorry, bud. No low beam, get it?" That means there's nothing between bright light and the darkness of night.

And how many times have you mistaken one headlight for a motorbike, only to find out at the last microsecond that it was a truck that had only one headlight functioning? That's not the worst. You're coasting along at 80 kph on an open stretch of country road at the dead of night. Then, suddenly, a glint of light from a reflector hits your field of vision. You're not sure what it is, but it's approaching you head-on, fast. You floor the brakes, and miss rear-ending a tricycle by two inches. Turned out the tricycle had no rear light. And as you overtake and shout invectives at the driver, you are struck speechless by the fact that the tricycle even had the weakest of headlight.

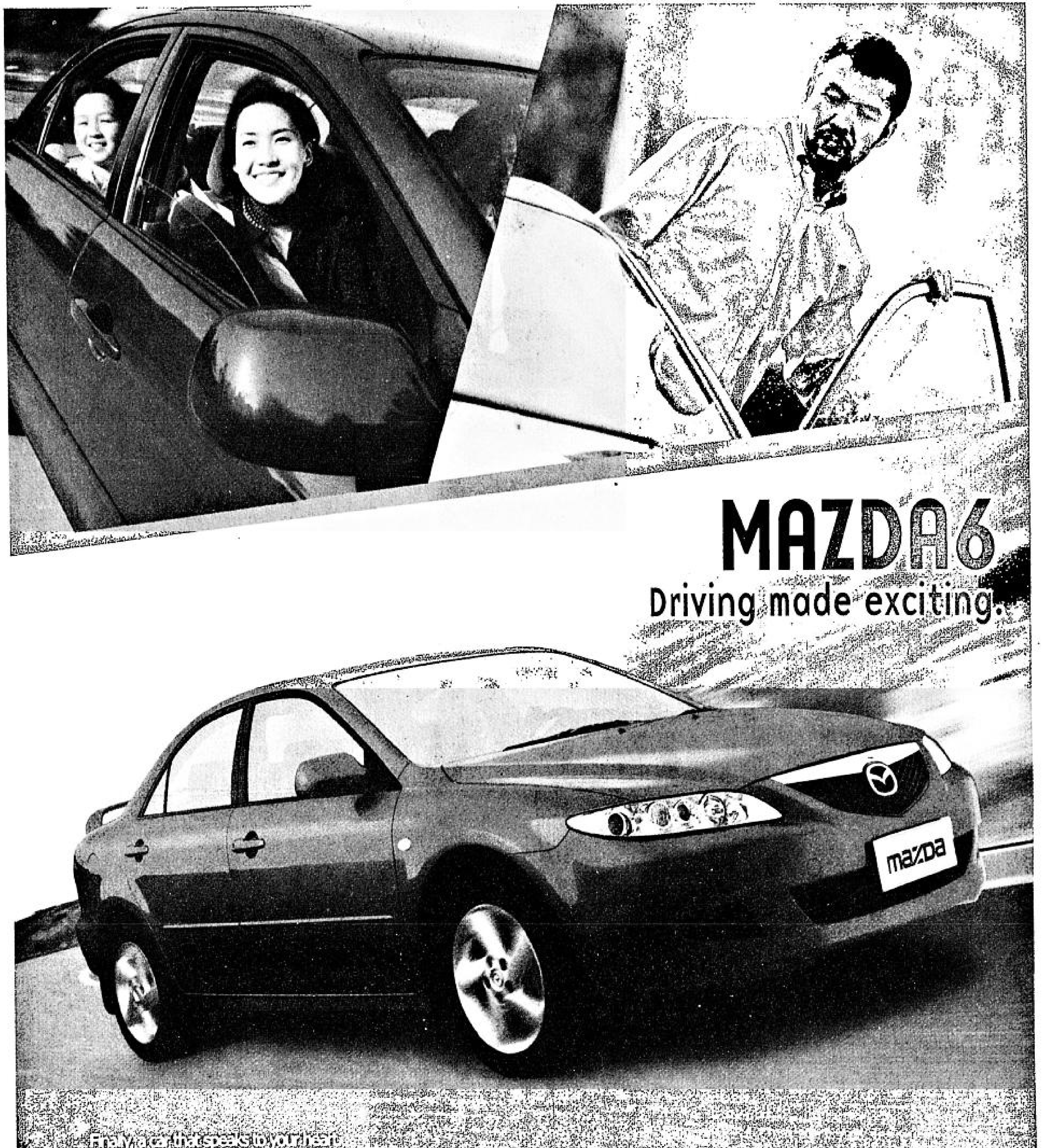
Misaimed headlights

The path to tragedy can start with just a wrongly positioned headlight. Incorrectly focused headlights lessen illumination or send blinding beams to oncoming motorists. This is the common problem found in many locally assembled jeepneys.

Misaimed headlamps are also problems found in converted right hand drive trucks or buses. In countries that use the right-hand drive system, the higher beam is positioned at the left headlight to illuminate the driver's side of the road at a farther distance. Why? Road signs are positioned at the roadside, and people walk at the roadside. Drivers need to see road signs at the earliest time possible, and pedestrians need to be warned of an oncoming vehicle Asap (as soon as possible), too. But oncoming vehicles don't need bright lights glaring down their eyes. That's why the right headlight is positioned just slightly lower. High beams aimed directly at oncoming drivers prevent them from seeing anything ahead—be it other vehicles, road signs or pedestrians.

So, when you drive a converted RHD vehicle in a left-hand drive system without the lights

INTENSE/ C2



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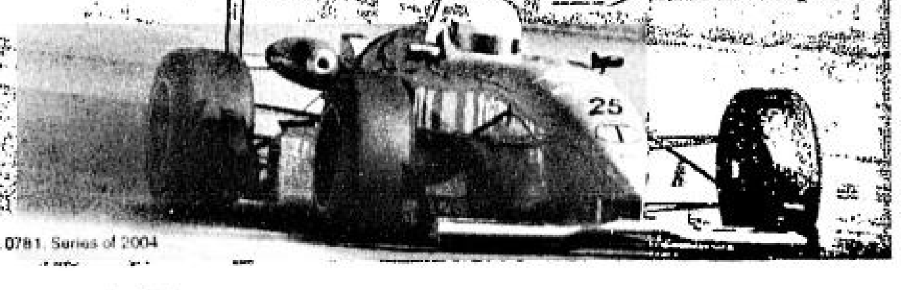

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MOTORING

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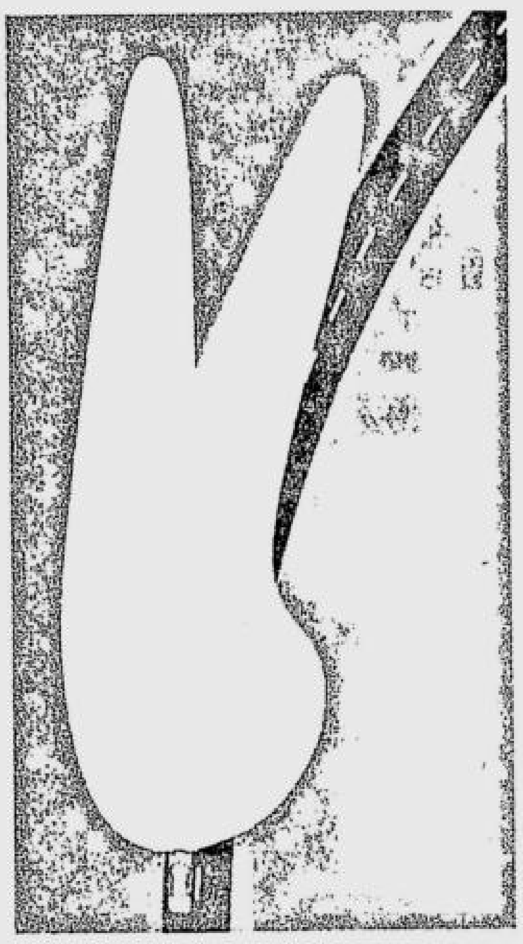
Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

Intense headlight beams can cause accidents



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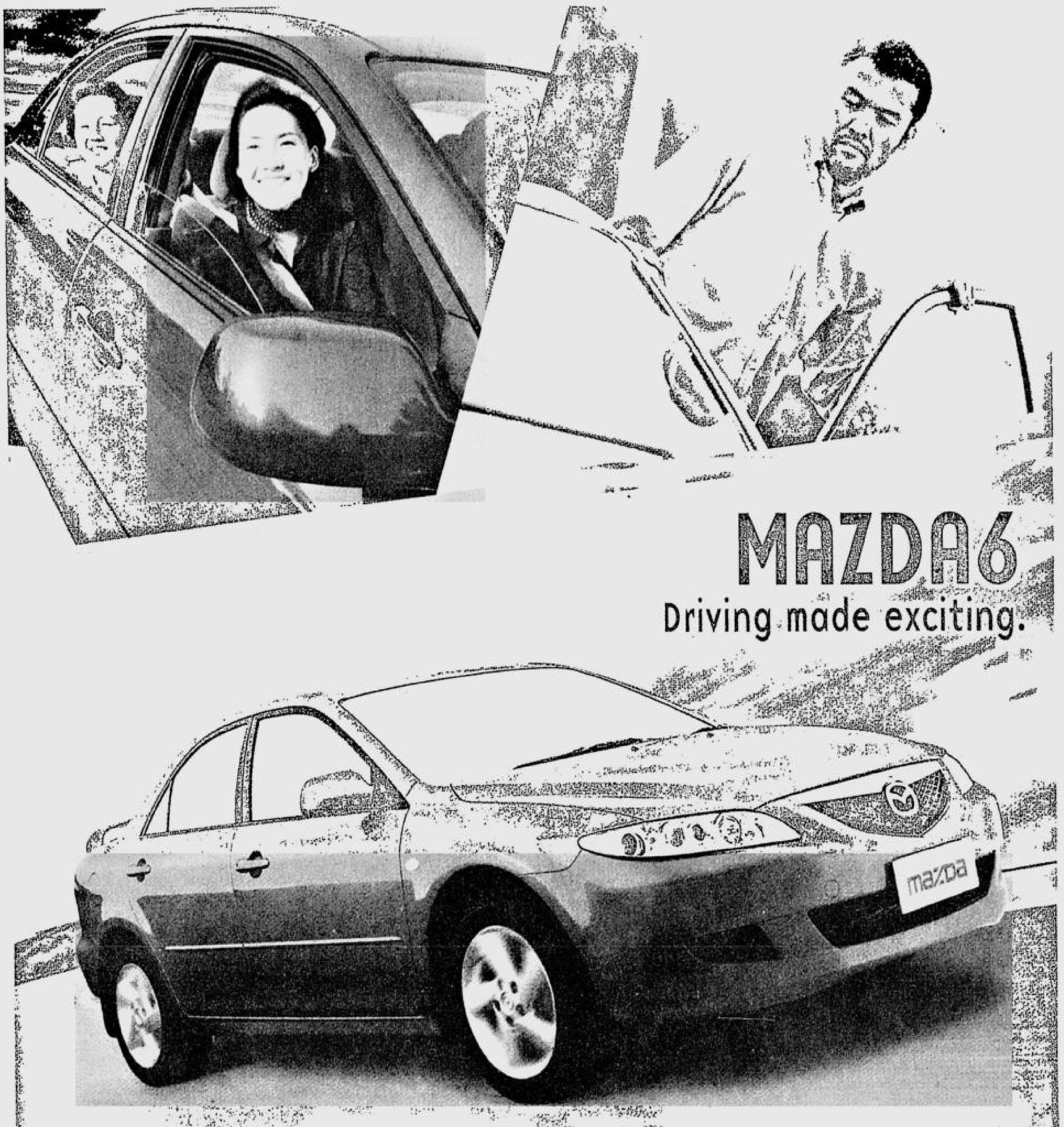

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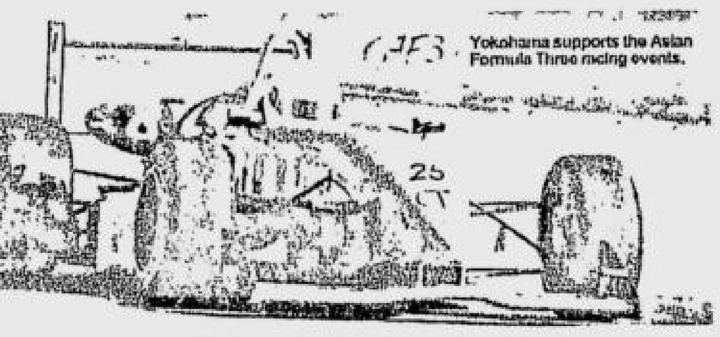

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Starex takes on a new game face

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

WITH AN ENHANCED aerodynamic casing, the 2004 Starex GRX offers versatility and comfort that match and even exceed other vans in its class.

EVER since Hyundai Starex appeared in the Philippine market several years ago, the Korean-made family van has developed quite a following that now its buyers demanded more than just discounts and efficient after-sales service.

"The market deserves more so we decided to bring the latest Starex here," said Ma. Fe Agudo, managing director at Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari), the exclusive distributor of Hyundai automotive products in the Philippines.

The 2004 Starex sports a new façade that gives it a more sleeker look and technically, aerodynamic performance.

"A van doesn't have to be boxy and unexciting, which is why Hyundai engineers gave the latest Starex an SUV-like appearance and fitted it with car-like appointments for a more pleasurable ride," said Agudo.

Also new for the 2004 Starex are features including driver's side airbag and an automatic headlight system that activates at night or whenever the van passes through a tunnel or an underpass while switches off when daylight is already enough.

WITH ALL SEATS folded flat, one can get an idea of the latest Starex's roomy and spacious cabin space.

The 2004 Starex ensures that wherever the family or the group decides to go, this van can take them there

4 variants

The 2004 Starex will be available in four variants: the 10-seater GRX in manual and automatic transmission (P999,500 and P1.078 million, respectively); the 10-seater Gold with automatic transmission (P1.3 million); and the 12 seater GRX Jumbo with manual transmission (P998,000).

All these GRX variants are powered by a 2.5 liter turbo-charged and inter-cooled diesel engine that provides 100 ps of horsepower and maximum torque of 23 kg m.

"The 2004 Starex ensures that wherever the family or the group decides to go, this van can take them there," said Agudo.

The 2004 Starex is now available in all Hyundai authorized dealers located in (Metro Manila) E. Rodriguez, Quezon Avenue, Edsa Greenhills, Edsa Guadalupe, Alabang, Don Chino Roces Avenue Extension in Makati City.

Hyundai also has authorized dealers in Pampanga, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo, Davao City, Laguna, Cagayan de Oro City and La Union.

Travel comfort

Travel comfort is also ensured as the 2004 Starex has ample space—whether in the 10- or 12-seater variant—to seat full size adults comfortably, thanks to its reclining seat features and adjustable headrests.

THE 2004 Starex GRX cabin is a perfect combination of beauty and functionality.

Complementing this is the van's high output air-conditioning system where even the rear passengers have control through a separate climate control.

At the back of the driver's area is an accessory power outlet that lets its occupants recharge their electronic gadgets including mobile phones and laptops.

To keep extra shopping bags in place, the 2004 Starex offer multipurpose seat hangers in the rear seats.

Service enhanced

"This year, Hari is determined to further reinforce its commitment to high quality and customer satisfaction like ready availability of genuine parts, service clinic and other socio-civic roadside assistance programs provided by our team trained from our very own National Service Training Center," revealed Agudo.

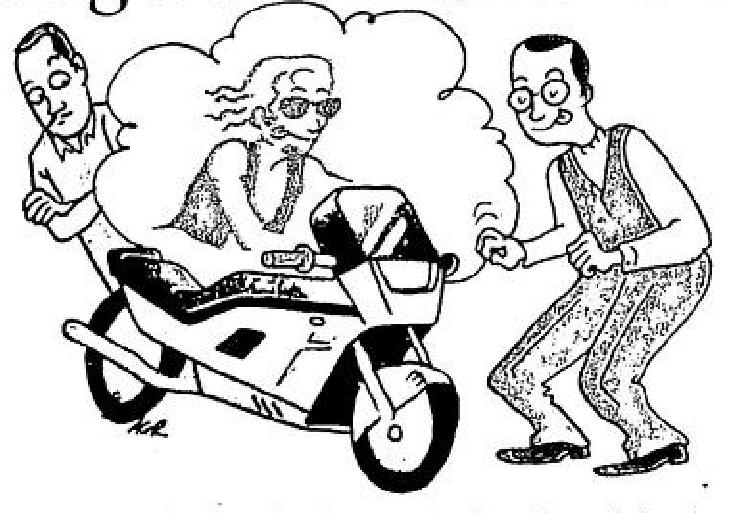
These after-sales service programs will ensure owners that their Hyundai units will receive basic periodic maintenance and quality workmanship. "This will be on top of the 3-year factory warranty we give," Agudo said.

Due to these sales enhancing programs, Hari was recently cited by Hyundai Motors Co. with an award for its outstanding performance and contribution to the company during HMC's 2004 distributors and dealers Asia conference held in Penang, Malaysia.

Said Agudo: "Being a new player in the market, the award was truly inspiring for the company that has faced a lot of challenges in its infancy (dealing with the gray market and excise tax). With the 2004 Starex we promise to continue our efforts to be one of the country's trusted automotive brand."

Tips on buying a secondhand big bike

By Alcuin Papa



A MOTORCYCLE is good way to beat the monstrous traffic jams in Metro Manila. It can weave in and around traffic and can accelerate faster.

Of course, there's also the fun part of motorcycle-riding. The popularity of movies like "Torque" has increased interest in big bikes.

Dealers of secondhand bikes in Metro Manila are numerous and offer a wide range of bikes. There are also a lot of private owners who want to sell off their bikes.

Here are some tips on choosing the secondhand motorcycle you want to buy:

- **Appearance.** View the bike at all angles and examine it with a sharp eye. Take note of the paint job. Is it cracked and dull? If there are scuffed marks on the body and paint, probably it has been dropped or has figured in an accident. Look for rusty parts and corroded alloy.

Ask the dealer if any modifications have been made and that you have to know about.

- **Engine.** The condition of the engine is a vital aspect of the machine. Try to start it cold. Minus points if the machine does not start. Give it a few revs, making sure it responds to the throttle easily and listen for any peculiar sounds in the engine. See if it settles down to its idle speed (usually 1,000-1,2000 rpm). Keep it running for around five minutes and shut down the engine. After a few seconds, start it again. The bike should be able to start on the first try.

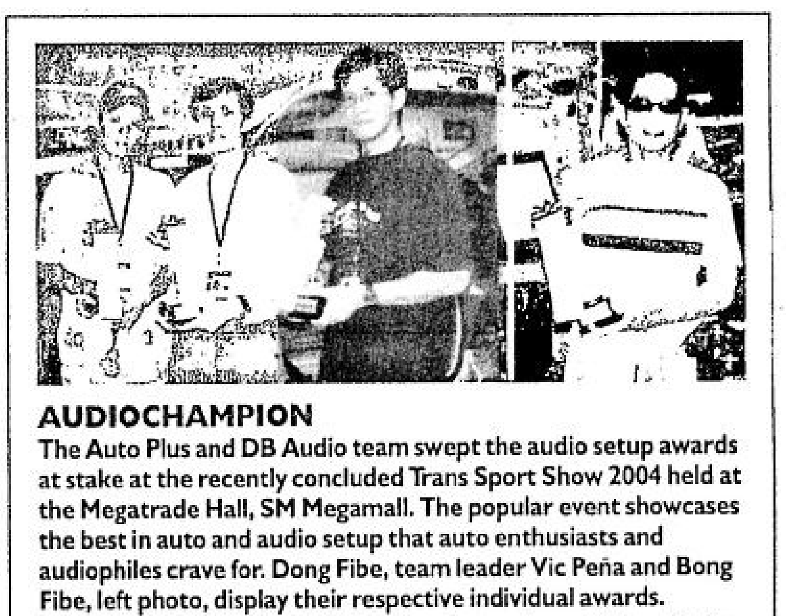
Check the odometer for the mileage. Look under the machine. If there is oil leaking, that's normally considered a danger sign. Some oil spilling from the top of the engine should be safe. Water and coolant leaks indicate a probable problem with the cooling system. Don't be afraid to ask the dealer or the owner the bike's service history.

- **Fit.** Mount the bike and check if you can reach the ground with your feet flat or semiflat on the ground. Check also if you can handle the weight of the bike. Make sure you are comfortable with your riding position.
- **Tires.** The tire is probably the most important part of the bike since this is what makes contact with the road. Deep groves on the tire is a good sign. Well-worn and cracked tires are dangerous and may cause spills. Take a look at the whole circumference of the wheel. Check the rims for any gashes.
- **Chain and sprockets.** Look at the condition of the rear sprocket. Nice, fat and rounded teeth are good. Sharp, shark-like teeth are bad. Put your finger on the chain and check the slack. The slack should be around one inch.
- **Handlebars.** Try to swing the handlebars from side to side. The transition should be smooth. Try the clutch and brake levers. They should depressed in a smooth manner.
- **Brake pads.** For disc brakes, look along the disc and see if there is at least 2 mm of brake material left. Deep grooves are bad.
- **Electricals.** Check all the lights like headlights, turning signals and brake lights and the horn while the engine is running. To check if the electricals are charging nicely, keep the engine running and turn on the headlight. Give the engine a few revs. You should see the light brighten as you rev the bike.
- **Suspension.** Mount the bike and try to bounce yourself on the machine. Squeaks from the rear may indicate age in the bushings. Oil on the forks indicate worn-out fork seals.
- **Test ride.** If you will be allowed, take a test ride. A warning though: some owners and dealers adopt a "you drop it, you pay for it" policy. Anyway, drop the bike into first gear. Did the bike drop into gear without any problems? Are the brakes jerky? Check again on the response of the throttle and try to listen in on the gears. They should be running and shifting smoothly. Take note also of how well or how bad the bike accelerates. Make sure it drops easily into idle speed. Look at the gauges to make sure the speedometer and tachometer are working.
- **The papers.** Ask the dealer or owner to produce the bike's documents and examine them carefully. These papers should include custom papers, original certificates of registration with original receipts and clearances from the Philippine National Police's Traffic Management group. Xerox copies should send alarm bells ringing in your head. Check the engine and chassis number on the documents if they match with those on the bike. Take down these numbers and have them checked with the PNP TMG and the LTO, if you can.

If there are problems with a bike you want, make sure you have some money left from your budget to have it fixed.

Finally, make sure you have some money left to buy protective gear like a helmet, gloves and a riding jacket with body armor.

Happy hunting!



AUDIOCHAMPION

The Auto Plus and DB Audio team swept the audio setup awards at stake at the recently concluded Trans Sport Show 2004 held at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. The popular event showcases the best in auto and audio setup that auto enthusiasts and audiophiles crave for. Dong Fibe, team leader Vic Peña and Bong Fibe, left photo, display their respective individual awards. Businessman Val Villanueva, in other photo, shows his trophy for the Best Millennium Asian Modified car award.

A fun-filled day from Isuzu

IT was a festive day at Isuzu Makati. Children plus mom and dad were treated to a day of fun-filled activities. Last April 24, the Power Living motto of Isuzu for its "Family Day" started with a bang at Isuzu dealership in Makati that is owned and operated by D. Edgard Cabangon of Gencars Inc.

A total of 153 family members, majority of whom were children, gamely participated in face painting, parlor games, wacky photo session and other kiddie programs. Loot bags with assorted candies, chocolates and toys were provided to the delight of the kids. While they were having fun with the playoffs, mom and dad test drove Isuzu vehicles—the Crosswind AUV variants and the D-MAX pickup.

A roaring, exciting, fun-filled day await valued customers with their families at the following Isuzu dealers: Cebu/Bacolod (May 8), Cagayan de Oro/Pasig (May 15), Davao (May 16), Bulacan/Pampanga (May 22), Cabanatuan/Edsa (May 29), Quezon Avenue/Alabang (June 5), San Pablo/Batangas (June 11), Dagupan/Cavite (June 19), and, Manila/Commonwealth (June 26).

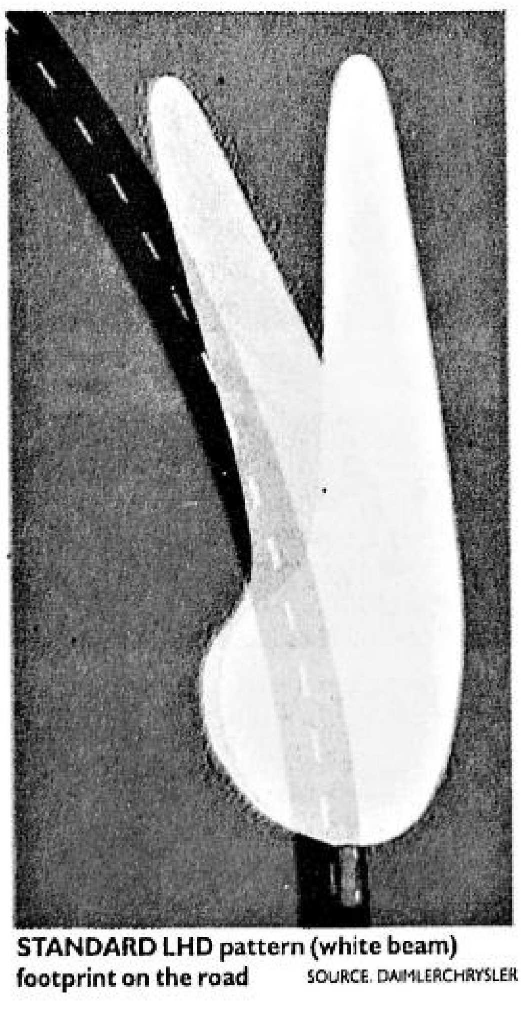
To cap the whole festivities, Isuzu will hold the culminating bash on July 17 at Boomland, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Lots of music, fun games, freebies, and Isuzu vehicle test drives await the participants.

Intense headlight beams can cause accidents

From page C1

repositioned accordingly, you may be high beaming the wrong side of the road. You may not see the road signs on your right warning you to slow down because of a sharp curve, or you may not see a parked vehicle on the right side in time. You may not see a drunk pedestrian toeing the shoulder in time to apply your brakes. You're not seeing these impending disasters coming at you, while at the same time you're causing a potential disaster of your own when you blind oncoming drivers with your high-positioned left beam.

The beam pattern of a left-hand drive vehicle's light is designed to slope upward at the right beam, at the right side of the road, to illuminate all road signs and pedestrians, including stalled vehicles on the shoulder. The left beam is designed to slope down in order to prevent oncoming motorists from being blinded by high beams. For countries that use right hand driving, the opposite is followed: the beam slopes upward on the left while the right slopes down on the right.



STANDARD LHD pattern (white beam) footprint on the road SOURCE: DAIMLERCHRYSLER

'Mystery crashes'

Split-second blindness—that black spot temporarily incapacitating vision—caused by blinding glare is considered one of the causes of "mystery crashes." Such crashes are so-called because no one has survived to tell what really happened.

Drivers subjected to prolonged exposures to blinding high beams are fatigued faster, and are more prone to drowsiness.

The Land Transportation and Traffic Code, or Article IV Sec. 34c of Republic Act 4136, is clear: All motor vehicles must be equipped with devices for varying the intensity of light. But for years now, enforcement has been on "low beam," so to speak.

Experts suggest that properly aligned low beam, which illuminates the area 300 to 500 feet ahead, should hit the roadway 100 to 150 feet ahead. The maximum safe speed is 60 to 67.5 kph based on the ability to stop within the lighted area.

Properly aligned high beams, on the other hand, should hit the roadway 350 to 500 feet ahead. It should light the area 500 to 1,800 feet ahead. The maximum safe speed using high beams is 97.5 to 105 kph.

Glare from oncoming vehicles, and then moving from well lit to dark roadways when driving will force the driver's eyes to make adjustments. If there are visibility problems, a passenger's duty is to ask the driver to increase the space between the car and the vehicle in front.

Normal driving training programs do not provide night driving conditions. Vehicle experts suggest driving instructors to caution drivers of risks associated with night driving and show the new driver how to adjust to this problem.

Glare from HID lights

In countries such as the United States, the problem is focused mainly on high intensity discharge (HID) lights. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, for instance, cited it was looking into complaints about glare from HID lights, and high-mounted SUV lights and fog lamps. Most of the roughly 4,000 complaints that have poured in have been directed at HIDs.

This number is said to be especially significant, considering that HID-equipped vehicles account for only about one percent of US cars and trucks sold.

High-mounted HID lights are estimated to zap vehicles ahead with up to 30 times more light than the usual car height halogens.

Headlight tests also showed that HIDs do produce more glare, which can cause temporary annoyance or blindness. Dirty windshield glasses, eyeglasses and contact lenses can increase glare. Experts also noted that its effects become more noticeable for drivers aged 50 and above.

A senior associate research scientist at the University of Michigan was quoted as saying neither HID nor halogen lights may provide adequate light down the road on their low beams. Scientist Michael Flannagan, on his analyses of 11 years of nationwide crash data to calculate the effect of darkness on pedestrian fatalities, said that each year, some 2,300 pedestrians are killed at night on the road, and not on the shoulder. His 2001 study found out that pedestrians are killed at four times the rate in darkness as in daylight.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Starex takes on a new game

Text and photos by Charles E. Buban

WITH AN ENHANCED aerodynamic casing, the 2004 Starex GRX offers versatility and comfort that match and even exceed other vans in its class.

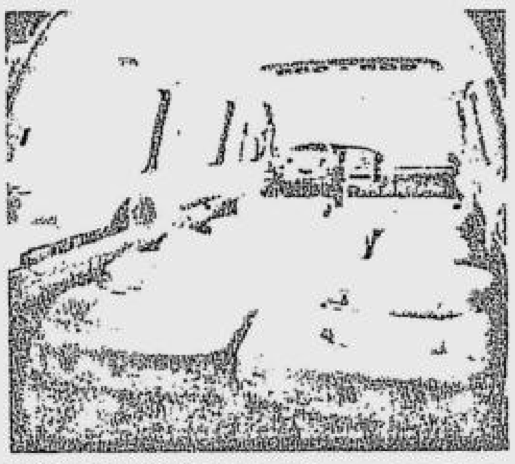
EVER since Hyundai Starex appeared in the Philippine market several years ago, the Korean-made family van has developed quite a following that now its buyers demanded more than just discounts and efficient after-sales service.

"The market deserves more so we decided to bring the latest Starex here," said Ma. Fe Agudo, managing director at Hyundai Asia Resources Inc. (Hari), the exclusive distributor of Hyundai automotive products in the Philippines.

The 2004 Starex sports a new façade that gives it a more sleeker look and technically aerodynamic performance.

"A van doesn't have to be boxy and unexciting, which is why Hyundai engineers gave the latest Starex an SUV-like appearance and [illegible]ted it with [illegible] appointments [illegible] pleasurabl[illegible]," said Agudo.

Also new for the 2004 Starex [illegible] including driver's side airbag and an autom[illegible]ic headlight system that activates at night whenever the van passes through a tunn[illegible] an underpass while switches off when light is already [illegible]



WITH ALL SEATS folded flat, one can get an idea of the latest Starex's roomy and spacious cabin space.

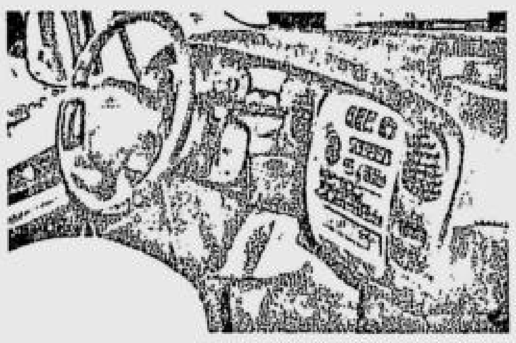
The 2004 Starex ensures that wherever the family or the group decides to go, this van can take them there

4 variants

The 2004 Starex will be available in four variants: the 10-seater GRX in manual [illegible] automatic transmission (P999,500 [illegible] P1.07[illegible] million [illegible]spectively); the 10[illegible] Gold with automatic transmission (P1.[illegible] [illegible]ion); and the 12-seater GRX Jumb[illegible] manual transmission (P998,000).

All these GRX variants are p[illegible] [illegible]

Travel comfort



THE 2004 Starex GRX cabin is a perfect combination of beauty and functionality.

or 12-seater variant [illegible] full-size adults comfortably, thank[illegible] reclining seat features and adjustable headrest.

Complementing this is the van's high output air-conditioning system where even the rear passengers have control through a separate climate control.

At the back [illegible] a accessory power [illegible] that occupants recharge their [illegible] including mobile phone[illegible] laptops.

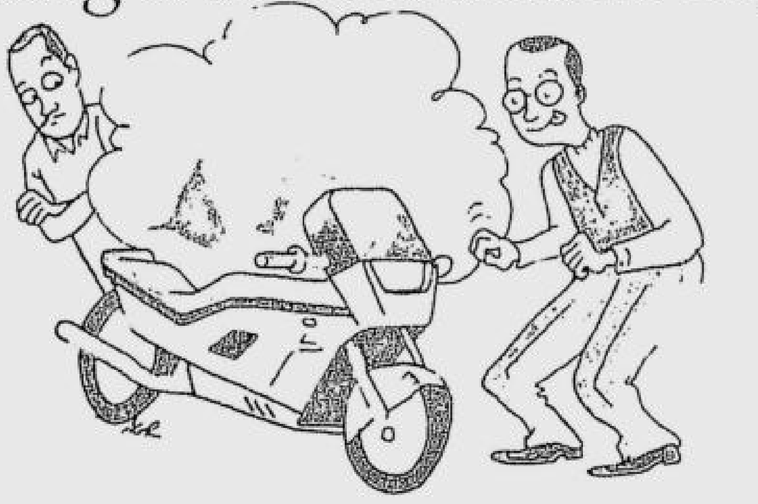
To keep ext[illegible] place, the 2004 Starex offe[illegible] hangers in the [illegible]

Service enhanced

[illegible]

Tips on buying a secondhand big bike

By Alcuin Papa



A MOTORCYCLE [illegible] good way [illegible] beat the monstrous traffic jams [illegible] Metro Manila. It [illegible] weave [illegible] and around traffic [illegible] erate faster.

Of course, there's also the fun part of motorcycle-riding. The popularity of movies like "Torque" has increased interest in big bikes.

Dealers of secondhand bikes in Metro Manila are numerous and offer a wide range of bikes. There are also a lot of private owners who want to sell off their bi[illegible]

Here are some tips on choosing the secondhand motorcycle you want to buy.

- Appearance. View the bike at all angles and examine it with a sharp eye. Take note of the paint job. Is it cracked and dull? If there are scuffed marks on the body and paint, probably it has been dropped or has figured in an accident. Look for rusty parts and corroded alloy [illegible]

Ask the dealer if any modifications have been made and tha[illegible] you have to know about.

- Engine. The condition of the engine [illegible] vital aspect of the machine. Try to start it cold. [illegible] points if the machine does not [illegible] Give it a few revs, making [illegible] sponds to the throttle easil[illegible] ten for any peculiar [illegible] engine. See [illegible] settles down to idle speed (usually 1,000-1,200 rpm). Keep it running [illegible] five minutes and shut down the engine. After a few seconds start again. The bike [illegible] start on the first [illegible]

[illegible] check the odometer [illegible] mileage. Look under the [illegible] there is oil leaking [illegible] considered a dang[illegible] spilling from the top of the [illegible] should be safe. Water leaks indicate a [illegible] problem with the cool[illegible] afraid to [illegible]

- Fit. [illegible]
- Tires. [illegible] may cause sp[illegible]. Take [illegible] circumference [illegible] the rims for [illegible]
- Chain and sprockets. [illegible] at the condition of the [illegible]
- Handlebars. [illegible]
- Brake pads. [illegible]
- Electricals. [illegible]
- Suspension. [illegible]
- Test ride. [illegible]
- The papers. [illegible]

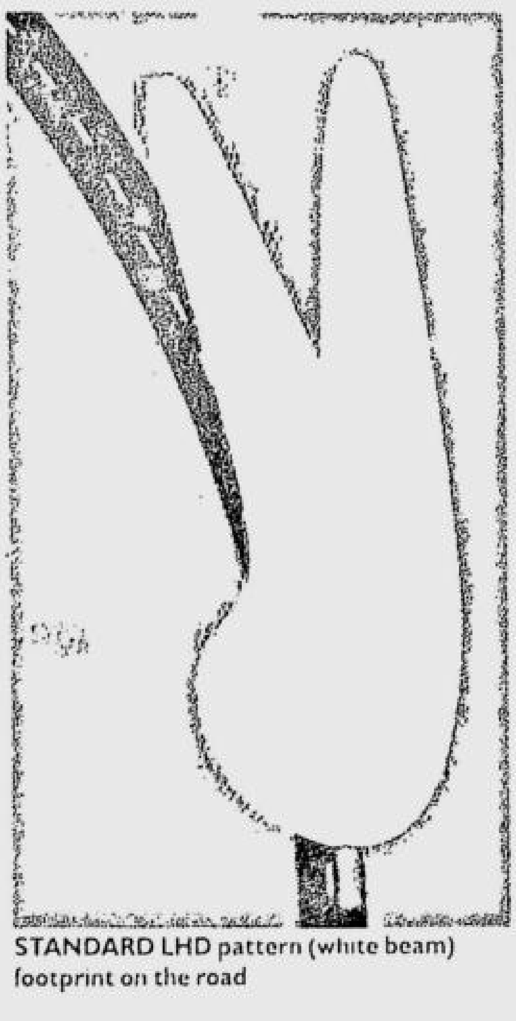
AUDIOCHAMPION

The Auto Plus and DB Audio team swept the audio setup awards at stake at the recently concluded Trans Sport Show 2004 held at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. The popular event showcases the best in auto and audio setup that auto enthusiasts and audiophiles crave for. Dong Fibe, team leader Vic Pena and Bong Fibe, left photo, display their respective individual awards. Businessman Val Villanueva, in other photo, shows his trophy for the Best Millennium Asian Modified car award.

A fun-filled day from Isuzu

[illegible]

Intense headlight beams can cause accidents



STANDARD LHD pattern (white beam) footprint on the road

[illegible]

'Mystery crashes'

[illegible]

Glare from HID lights

[illegible]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THIRD row seats of the Everest face the front and are bigger than those of most AUVs.

FORD Everest: more than a Ranger with an SUV body

PHOTOS BY: AIDA SEVILLA-MENDOZA

THE EVEREST'S cockpit reminds you of the Ford Ranger.

Ford's affordable and spacious SUV

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

GIVEN the Philippines' rapid population growth, the market for motor vehicles that can seat seven or eight is booming. The popularity of minivans and Asian utility vehicles AUVs can be traced in part to big, fat families that need roomy wheels. On the other hand, some paterfamilias are confronted with a dilemma: they don't want a minivan (too mom-mobile) or an AUV (too common), but they can't afford any of the big sport utility vehicles that sell for almost P2 million each.

Enter Ford Motor Co. with a brilliant idea: a three-row SUV spacious enough to seat seven in comfort but costing less than a million pesos. The affordable three-row SUV, to be fittingly dubbed the Everest, would be diesel-fed because diesel fuel costs P5 less per liter than gasoline. And to guarantee pulling power (268 Nm/2,000 rpm max torque) and durability surpassing that of diesel AUVs, the engine would be a 2.5-liter intercooled turbo diesel and the platform would be a "Built Ford-Tough" pickup truck's. To be exact, the Ford Ranger's platform.

REAR view of the Everest: definitely not a minivan mom-mobile or an AUV

Best asset

Competitors might grumble that the Ford Everest is nothing more than a Ranger with an SUV body. After driving a 4x2 manual transmission Everest for a week, I came to the conclusion that it's more than that. For one thing, the Everest's diesel engine is smooth and refined, almost as quiet and vibration-free as the Isuzu Trooper's powerplant.

For another—and this is the Everest's best asset—it is extremely spacious inside. The second row seat, which can accommodate three tall, well-fed adults in cushioned comfort, measures 19 inches long and 50 inches wide. The floor area for the second row passengers is 28 1/2 inches long and 56 1/2 inches wide, roomy enough for them to stretch their legs despite the cluster of three cupholders at the center of the floor.

Expanded

The third row seat can only accommodate two people, but at least the seats face the front and are bigger than those found in most AUVs. When the third row seat is folded forward, the cargo area expands to 61 inches wide and 32 inches long. Moreover, the cargo area has a 12-volt auxiliary power port at the left side and four strategically located tie-down buckles. The jack and tools are stored in a compartment in the right side while a mesh net pocket on the inner panel of the rear door contributes to the cargo area's tidiness.

American-sized spaciousness is also found in the lateral-bolstered front bucket seats and the center console in between them. The center console houses a storage bin big enough to store more than two dozen CDs, being 6 inches wide, 6 inches deep and 11 1/4 inches long. The audio system consists of an AM/FM tuner with in-dash single CD player and four speakers plus tweeters in the 4x4 variant. Overhead, there are not one but two sunglasses storage compartments and in front of the center console, a carpeted, uncovered receptacle for toll gate coins and other small items.

Aircon in the back

Every passenger in the Everest has a cupholder, which is a vital convenience when motoring in hot summer weather. Aside from the two in front and three for the second row seat passengers, there are two cupholders for the third row passengers. What's more, the second and third row passengers are assured of cooling comfort because of the split air-conditioning vents with a separate control dial in the back.

The 4x2 Everest is semi-complete in terms of safety features, being equipped with dual front airbags, safety belts on all seven seats, side impact beams and remote keyless entry with alarm. The more expensive 4x4 variant (P1.210 million) is more complete as its safety equipment is supplemented with ABS, EBD (electronic brake force distribution), limited slip differential and fog lamps. Both the 4x2 and 4x4 Everest are shod with 265/70R15 tires, the same as the Ford Ranger's, and stopping power is provided by disc brakes in front and drum brakes at the rear.

The only minuses

Since it is built on a pickup truck's platform, the Everest's riding comfort does not quite equal that of a car-based SUV. The front suspension consists of an independent double wishbone system while the rear has semi-elliptical leaf springs. However, the leaf springs and the Everest's boxy exterior design are about its only discernible minuses. Summing up, the Everest 4x2 at P995,000 deserves to be considered by families in search of affordable seven-seater transpo that offers the strength, durability and panache of an SUV plus the spaciousness and practicality of a minivan.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: If something goes without saying — LET IT!

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

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Calauag's Visorde hero. . .

From page C4

off-road adventure, the CR-V gives you the choice with its 2WD and Realtime 4WD variants. All CR-Vs are powered by Honda's innovative 2.0-liter "Intelligent" VTEC (i-VTEC) engine technology, which provides ample power and torque, while producing cleaner emissions and high fuel efficiency."

Already, over 1 million units of the CR-V have been sold all over the world since it was introduced in Japan in 1995.

In the country alone, the CR-V has sold some 29,457 units since its introduction.

* * *

I didn't know car batteries have become that expensive.

I bought a Motolite for P2,600 last weekend. "Top-of-the-line," said the seller.

He gave me a discount.

"Bring your old battery and you get a P50 discount," he said.

I did. Fifty bucks is 50 bucks, you know.

"It has a warranty of 18 months," said the seller.

It's a self-maintenance battery, which means you don't need to fill it with distilled water for the entirety of its life.

I am just wondering: I'd surrendered my old batteries before and they all cost P50 each. What would they need the old batteries for? Recycle them and peddle them off as brand-new? A recycled battery can last 18 months?

Darn.

* * *

Surprise, surprise, but the Maharlika Highway from Manila to Calauag, Quezon, is now one of the smoothest rides going down South. No more potholes to complain of, to pester you, to jolt you out of your sound sleep when you are a passenger on a night trip to Bicol.

In a visit to Calauag last weekend, I learned that one of the architects of this beautiful transformation of the highway was Luisito Visorde, who recently retired as director of the Public Works' Bureau of National Maintenance with outstanding records to his name, like being voted most outstanding district engineer twice in a nationwide search.

Funny thing is, now that he wants to transfer his 40-year experience of unblemished management expertise to Calauag by way of wanting to become mayor of this seaside town, his political rivals are hurling mud at him in a desperate bid to deflect what many believe is his impending victory on May 10.

"I just smile each time I hear brickbats and assault on my person coming from my political opponents," said Visorde, who had opened all-important barangay roads in his town years before he even dreamed of running for mayor of Calauag. "I know my town mates do the same. Let's just wait for the May 10 elections when the people finally decide on who they want to be their leader."

Visorde is almost a cinch to win as his legacy of helping pave the Maharlika Highway has become legend in the entire province of Quezon.

* * *

QUOTE ME. With good roads, there is less stress and exhaustion for both driver and passenger during long-distance trips.

RPN EXTREME AUTO BYTES

Catch AUTO EXTREME every Sunday, 3:30 PM on RPN 9 and log on to www.autoextreme.tv

Each week, a viewer's question related to cars and motoring gets answered on Auto Extreme. You can get a hard copy every Thursday in this section.

WHAT is EFI?

—Jivic P. Pretila of Novaliches, Quezon City

EFI is an acronym that stands for Electronic Fuel Injection which is the computerized metering and squirting of fuel, replacing the carburetor systems.

Fuel injection, per se, is a technology used in internal combustion engines to mix the fuel with air prior to combustion. With a traditional carburetor, fuel is converted to a fine spray and mixed with air. With fuel injection, however, the fuel is forced through nozzles under pressure. The major advantage of the system is that the amount of fuel being mixed with air can be more precisely controlled, and the mixture can be more evenly spread throughout the air coming into the engine.

Now combine basic fuel injection with an electronic computer which monitors engine conditions and you get Electronic Fuel Injection or EFI. With the development of microprocessor technology it was now possible to control the amount of fuel injected precisely, thus greatly increasing fuel efficiency.

Fuel injection was first introduced in the 1920s but only gained widespread popularity in the '80s with the introduction of EFI coupled with the gradual tightening of emissions and fuel economy laws. Meeting modern emission standards while retaining acceptable performance levels would be very difficult without it. Today, almost every new car, truck and SUV uses EFI.

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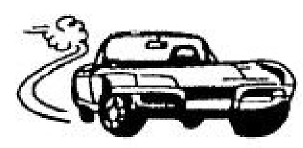
Calauag's Visorde hero of Maharlika Highway

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

I MISSED the twin launch of Mitsubishi Philippines when it unveiled the 2004 Lancer and the 2004 Adventure. As usual, I got the news that the occasion went well.

It was well-attended and the industry bigwigs, as well as my fellow motoring writers, all praise the new vehicles from Mitsubishi.

It was unfortunate enough that I didn't receive my invite on time. The e-mail about it from Froy Dytiangquin, I only found out the day the occasion was held. For one reason or another, I didn't open my e-mail for some days; when I did, there it was—the invite from Froy.

Sorry, fellas. I'll make it up next time. I also said sorry to Thelma Lozano, who was able to corner me in my little hideaway in Calauag, Quezon, the morning after the twin launch was held; again, the magic of cell phone at work.

"Aha! So you are having a whiff of fresh, country air again, huh!" she exclaimed.

Thelma, even if she's already retired, remains a pillar at Mitsubishi. As Mel Dizon loves to say, "Thelma has always been an asset, almost an irreplaceable one. It's just too bad that she had to retire. But still, she helps us. And I can only be too grateful to her."

* * *

Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s CR-V (Comfortable Runabout Vehicle) has regained its crown as the best selling SUV in the country, according to TinTin Reyes.

With at least 13 percentage-point margin from the rest of the SUVs in the market, the CR-V has 26 percent of the total SUV sales in the country.

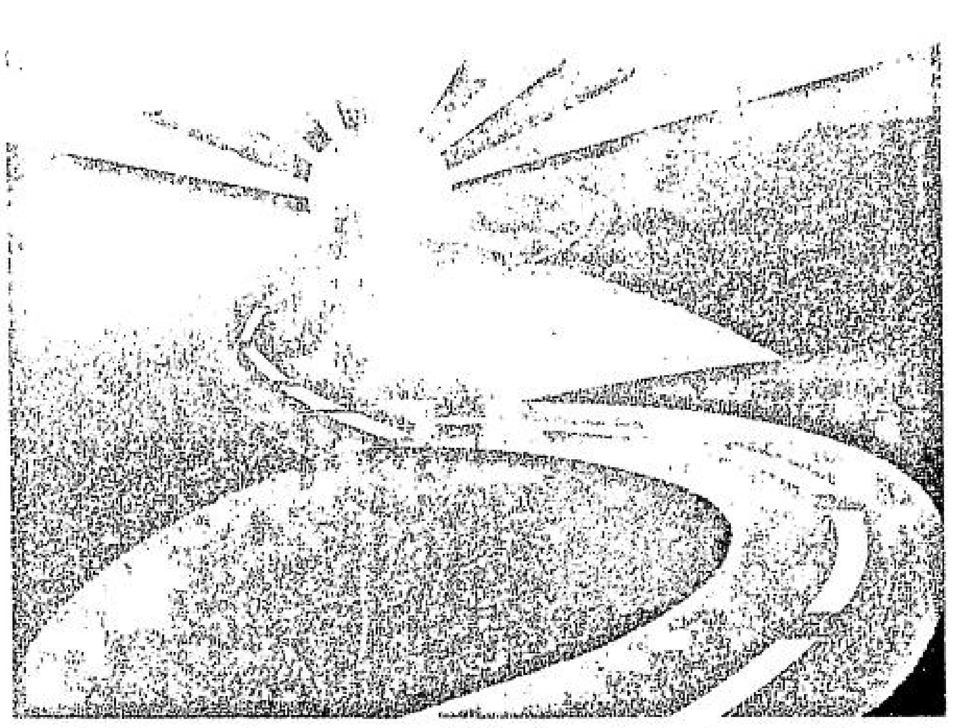
Honda sold 995 units the first three months of the year, another proof of the motoring public's trust in Honda's commitment to delivering quality products.

The CR-V's versatility is one of the overriding factors contributing to its appeal to the public, providing for specific motoring needs. Space, comfort, utility and functionality needs have been consistently addressed by the CR-V, which commands respectability.

Its three-row seating arrangement with front captain seats allow optimum comfort for up to eight passengers and its rear seats fold away to create large cargo space.

As TinTin, Arnel Doria's most trusted front act in the company of Min Magbal, puts it: "The CR-V has always been known for the unmatched combination of the riding comfort of a sedan with the toughness of a sports utility vehicle. For a leisurely drive or for an

CALAUAG'S/ C3



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The Power driver's seat is 8-way adjustable for comfort

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You move ahead of the times by taking the lead in setting new trends. You improve on your assets to keep you on top. Just like the **New Corolla Altis 2004** with a high-performance **1.8 VVT-i engine.** It's equipped with a computer that matches the timing of valves to your driving situation. The result is greater pull, precise control, cleaner exhaust and better fuel efficiency.

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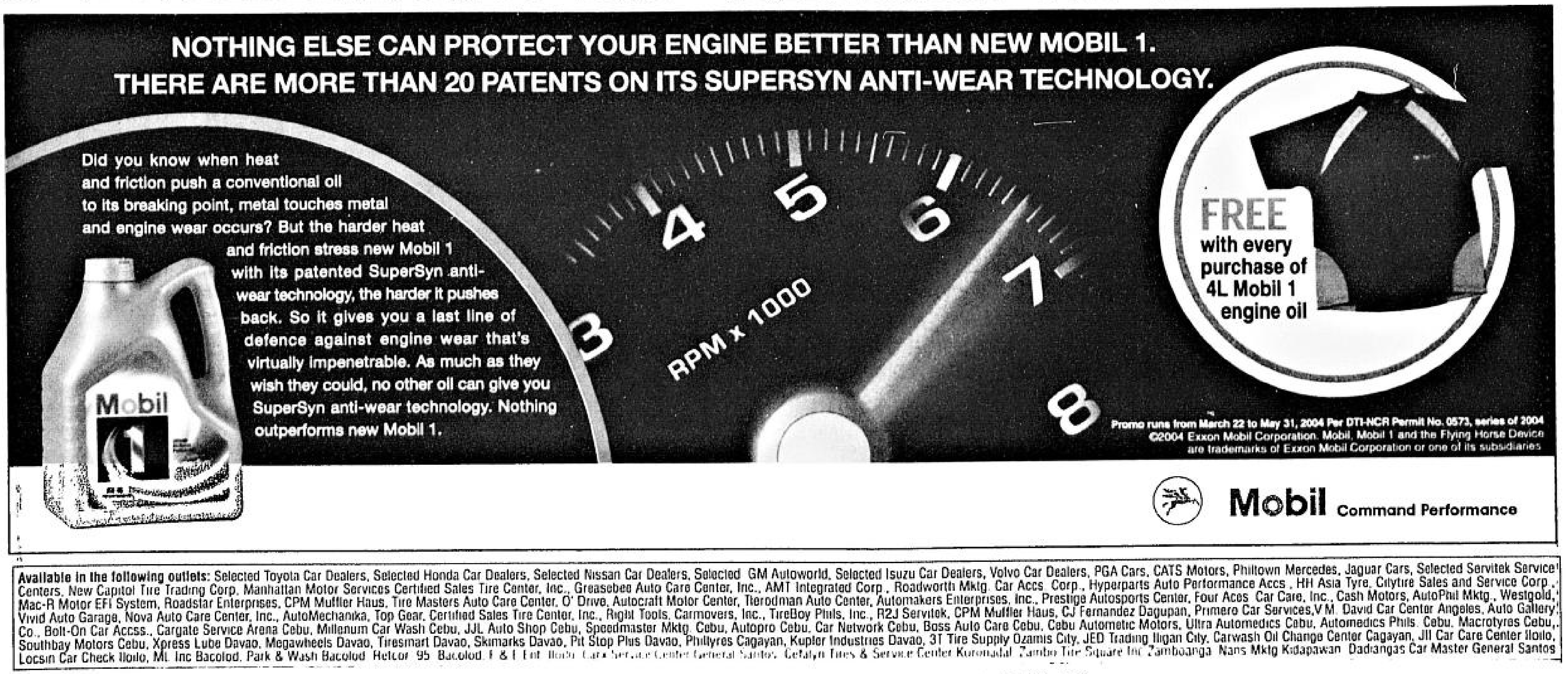

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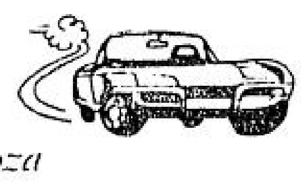
Calauag's Visorde hero of Maharlika Highway

FULL TANK



Al Mendoza

I MISSED the twin launch of Mitsubishi Philippines when it unveiled the 2004 Lancer and the 2004 Adventure. As usual, I got the news that the occasion went well.

It was well-attended and the industry bigwigs, as well as my fellow motoring writers, all praise the new vehicles from Mitsubishi.

It was unfortunate enough that I didn't receive my invite on time. The e-mail about it from Froy Dytiangquin, I only found out the day the occasion was held. For one reason or another, I didn't open my e-mail for some days; when I did, there it was—the invite from Froy.

Sorry, fellas. I'll make it up next time. I also said sorry to Thelma Lozano, who was able to corner me in my little hideaway in Calauag, Quezon, the morning after the twin launch was held; again, the magic of cell phone at work.

"Aha! So you are having a whiff of fresh, country air again, huh!" she exclaimed.

Thelma, even if she's already retired, remains a pillar at Mitsubishi. As Mel Dizon loves to say, "Thelma has always been an asset, almost an irreplaceable one. It's just too bad that she had to retire. But still, she helps us. And I can only be too grateful to her."

Honda Cars Philippines Inc.'s CR-V (Comfortable Runabout Vehicle) has regained its crown as the best selling SUV in the country, according to TinTin Reyes.

With at least 13 percentage-point margin from the rest of the SUVs in the market, the CR-V has 26 percent of the total SUV sales in the country.

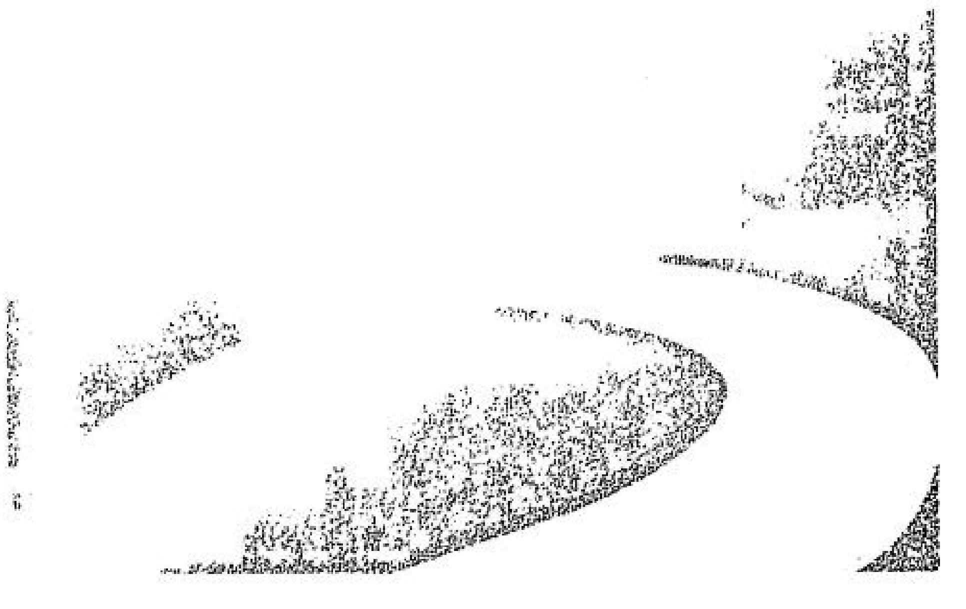
Honda sold 995 units the first three months of the year, another proof of the motoring public's trust in Honda's commitment to delivering quality products.

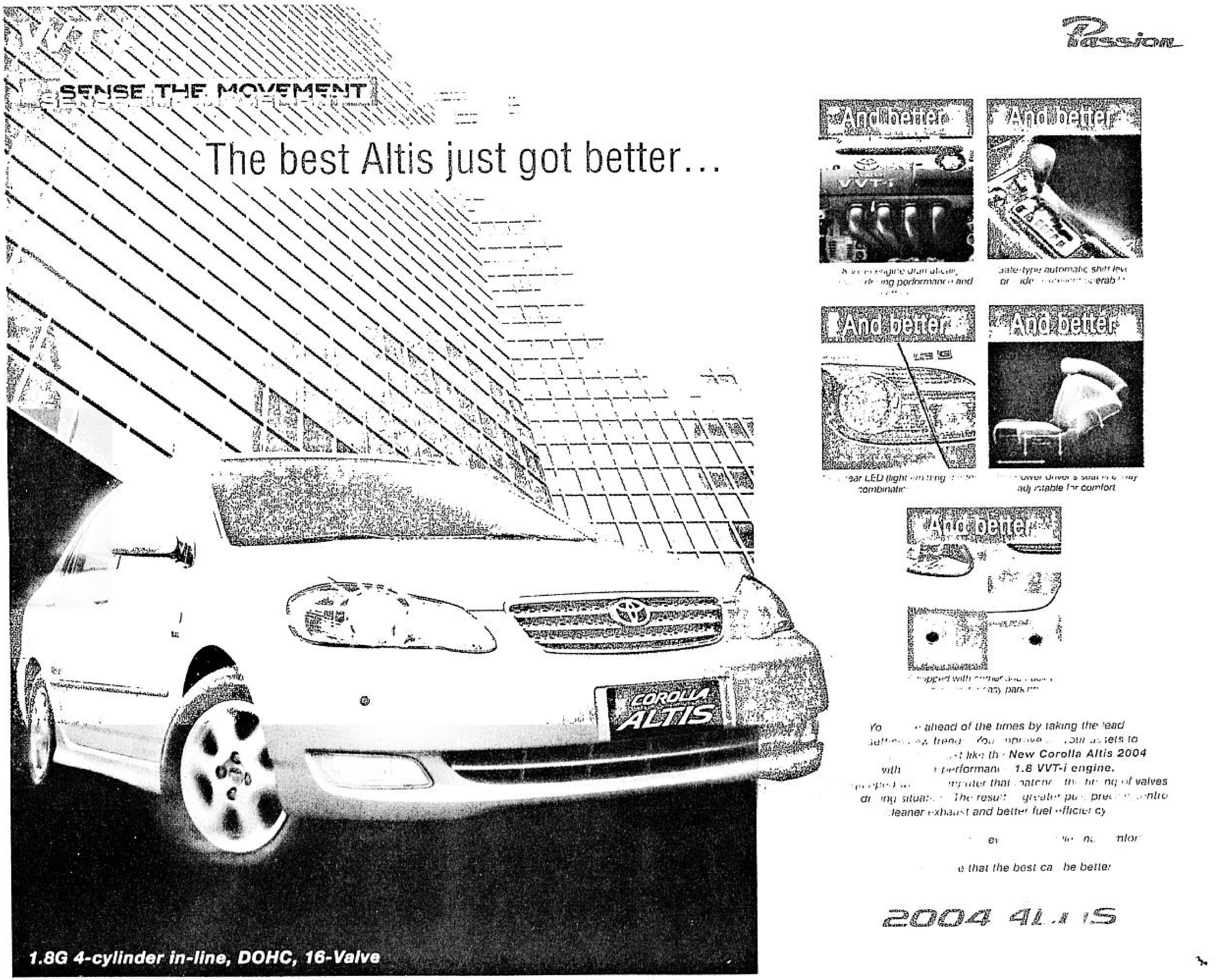
The CR-V's versatility is one of the overriding factors contributing to its appeal to the public, providing for specific motoring needs. Space, comfort, utility and functionality needs have been consistently addressed by the CR-V, which commands respectability.

Its three-row seating arrangement with front captain seats allow optimum comfort for up to eight passengers and its rear seats fold away to create large cargo space.

As TinTin, Arnel Doria's most trusted front act in the company of Min Magbal, puts it: "The CR-V has always been known for the unmatched combination of the riding comfort of a sedan with the toughness of a sports utility vehicle. For a leisurely drive or for an

CALAUAG'S C3

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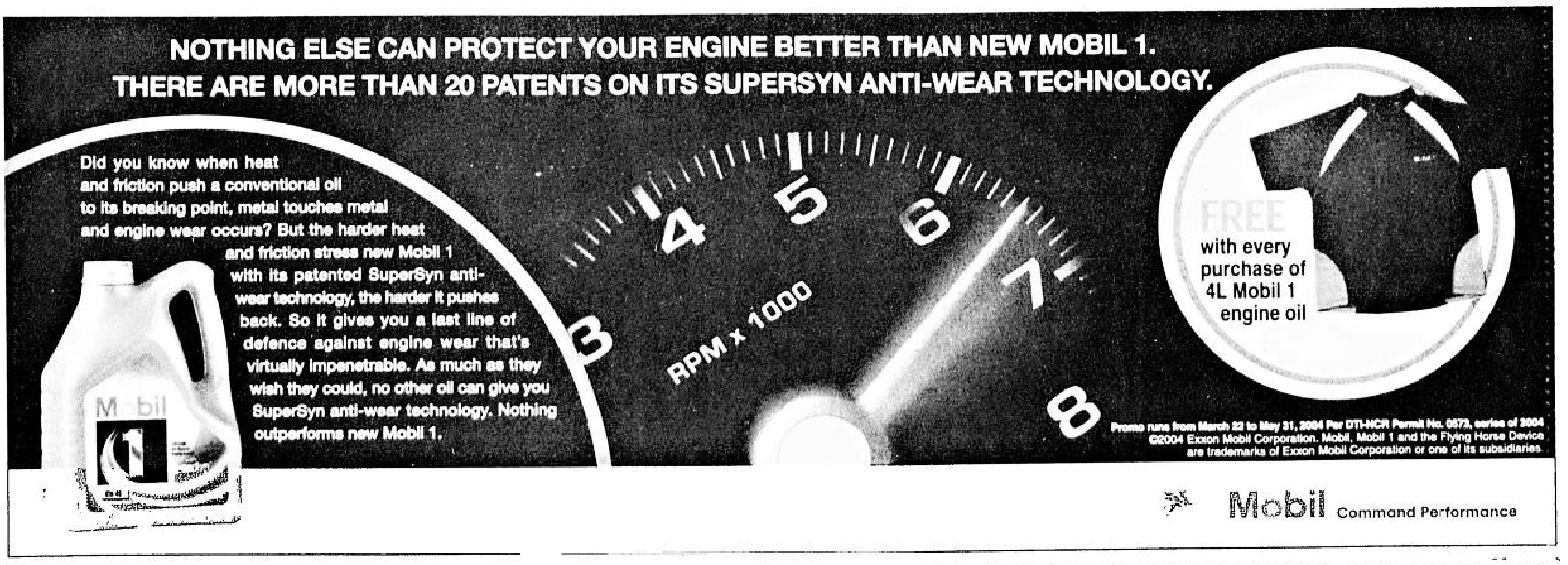
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS ◉ TUESDAY FITNESS ◉ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◉ THURSDAY FOOD ◉ FRIDAY HOME & FASHION ◉ SUNDAY SURPRISES

CHEF Jill Sandique's Empanadang Kaliskis

FOR THE HARRIED MOM

Chicken in a flash

CHEF Ed Quimson's Bringhe

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Roger Margallo

A FOOD company just made life easier for mothers.

With its first locally produced canned chicken product, Purefoods gives Mom the convenience of preparing her family's favorite chicken dishes without the hassle of cleaning, cooking and deboning a chicken.

At the recent launch of Purefoods Chicken Chunks, the company asked culinary experts Glenda Barretto, Ed Quimson, Cely Kalaw, Jill Sandique and Nancy Reyes-Lumen to whip up enticing dishes using the canned chicken.

Using the new product as a major ingredient, the guest chefs showcased various home-style chicken recipes, ranging from appetizing chicken side dishes that make good accompaniments to main courses, to savory entrees that have been family favorites from one generation to another.

Barretto, the doyenne of Philippine cuisine, cooked up Chicken Adobo Flakes with Sauteed Eggplants. She flaked the chicken meat and fried it over medium heat, stirring constantly until the meat turned crispy.

Comebacking chef Quimson presented his Bringhe and Mango-Cheddar-Chicken Adobo Spring Rolls. The grated green mangoes, chopped chicken chunks *adobo* and grated cheese were wrapped in *lumpia* wrapper and deep-fried.

Kalaw, the Bicol Express originator, served Kare-Kare with chicken chunks and Bicol Express using chicken chunks in oil, coconut milk, *bagoong* and green finger chilis.

Pastry chef-cum-food consultant Sandique showcased the delicious Empanadang Kaliskis with chicken chunks in water as main filling, and Inun-unan, a stew of chicken chunks with vinegar, ginger, garlic and peppercorns.

Reyes-Lumen, the practical cook and certified foodie, served the Old-style Pancit Sotanghon.

Based on the goodness of all the dishes, the chefs were obviously inspired and challenged in coming up with truly interesting variations on chicken dishes, using Purefoods' new product.

Versatility and flavor

Purefoods' Chicken Chunks, which is part

Look, Ma, your fave white meat is in a can, ready to serve or mix in with what you're cooking

of San Miguel Purefoods Company's aggressive thrust to complement its canned meats portfolio with more value-added and branded quality offerings, features chicken (by Magnolia) as an appetizing and more convenient product, an innovation consisting of skinless and boneless chicken breast and thigh, diced into chunks and marinated using the finest ingredients and spices to create a flavorful ready-to-eat viand.

The chicken chunks may be eaten as a stand-alone viand with rice, as a complement to other dishes (salads, for example), as filling for sandwiches, casseroles and pies, or as garnishing for other dishes.

CHICKEN/ D2

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GOLD MEDALIST Academia de Gastronomia Madrid, Spain - 1964

ERNEST REYNOSO GALA
Graduate : Full Course at Thai Cooking School, Oriental Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand
Studied at Chopstick and Hongkong Town Gas Culinary Schools

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Leni Reynoso-Araullo
CERTIFIED WILTON METHOD SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR, Chicago, U.S.A.
Masters in Cake Decorating, Wilton School, Chicago, U.S.A., 1974 under Martha & Stanley Wilton
Graduate : Chicago School of Cooking and Catering
Graduate : Full Course, Thai Cooking School at the Oriental Hotel, Bangkok
Studied cooking in Europe, South America & Hongkong
Co-founder, Reynoso Cooking and Baking School, March, 1963

MAY 7 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM - VERY FLAKY PORTUGUESE (MACAO) STYLE TARTS. - CASUY LANGKA MACAPUNO MANGO, UBE TARTS EMPANADA W SWEET-FILLING HAM-CHEESE EMPANADITAS FOR BAKESHOP OR HOME BUSINESS P980.
MAY 8, 15, 22 (3 SATs) 9:00AM-5:00PM FONDANT ICING & GUMPASTE FLOWERS COURSE P2,500. INCLUDING INGREDIENTS LUNCH & SNACK
LESSON 1 DAISY, TULIP, SAMPAGUITA, APPLE BLOSSOM & SWEET PEA MAKE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LEAVES, STAMENS, CALYX FOR FUTURE USE
LESSON 2 CAKE (STYRO) COVERED WITH FONDANT ICING & CUT GLASS TECHNIQUE MAKE GUMAMELA, LILIES STEPHANOTIS, CHRYSANTHEMUM, CARNTION, DAFFODIL. WILTON ROSE, VICTORIA ROSE LESSON 3 ORCHID, GUMPASTE RIBBONS& SWAGS PREPARATION & DECORATION OF FONDANT WEDDING CAKE (FOR TAKE HOME) BY LENI R. ARAULLO
MAY 11 TUE 2:30 - 5:30PM - MONEY-MAKING FAST FOOD RECIPES! YUMMY CHICKEN INASAL, S & R STYLE HERB ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN, CAJUN BURGERS W SPECIAL SAUCE, SPICY MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BURGERS, BAKED POTATO CHIP MAGNOLIA CHICKEN BREASTS W/PESTO LINGUINE P980.
MAY 12 & 19 (2 WEDs) 2:30 - 5:30PM P1,500 - MONEY-MAKING CHOCOLATE FANTASIES COURSE. ALL NEW! (#1 SELLER IN MANILA) CHOCOLATE-COATED POPCORN CREAM-FILLED CUPCAKES, STICKY WALNUT BROWNIES. CHUNKY CHOCO COOKIES. GERMAN-STYLE FUDGY CAKE W ICING, CHOCOLATE TURTLE CHEESECAKE. SMOOTH CHOCOLATE MOUSE, SYRUPY BROWNIES WALNUT CRUNCH BROWNIES. NEW ROCKY ROAD BROWNIES. MELTS IN THE MOUTH TIRAMISU #2
MAY 13 THU 2:00 - 5:00PM 7 MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGE COURSE 1 GERMAN (BRATWURST) HUNGARIAN KIELBASA MEXICAN L.A. GREEK, SHEBOYGAN BRATS OF WISCONSIN, CHORIZO MACAO BAGUIO SAUSAGES BONUS ATCHARA & HOT POTATO SALAD P980. BY LENI R. ARAULLO.
MAY 14 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM UBE CHIFFON CAKE, ROCKY ROAD. MOIST CHOCOLATE CAKE. FOOD FOR THE GODS & WALNUT BROWNIES PLUS TIPS ON CONVERTING CAKES INTO JELLY ROLLS ' MUFFINS DELICIOUS CAKES SOLD IN TOP BAKESHOPS' ALL CAKES W DIFFERENT ICINGS' P980.
MAY 18 TUE 2:30 - 6:00PM 2 KINDS OF ROASTBEEF MONTEREY STANDING RIB ROAST & BACON-WRAPPED BONELESS ROAST W GRAVY. CREMA DE FRUTA SIZZLING SHRIMPS IN GARLIC SAUCE. FRIED SQUID RINGS CHICKEN ALEXANDER. SEAFOOD MEDLEY SOUP SERVED ON CRUSTY BREAD BOWL FROM FRENCH BAKER P980
MAY 20 THU 2:00 - 5:30PM 6 MONEY-MAKING SAUSAGE COURSE 2. P980. CHINESE SWEET SAUSAGE (LOP CHONG ALSO USED FOR SIOPAO FILLING) FILIPINO ANISADO LONGANIZA, JAPANESE CHICKEN SHIITAKE (MUSHROOM) SUSAGE. PERUVIAN HOT LINKS. CHEROKEE INDIAN SAUSAGE SMOKED BRATWURST
BY LENI R. ARAULLO WHO TAUGHT & SOLD HAM & SAUSAGES TO HOTELS & RESTAURANTS IN MANILA & THE U.S. SINCE 1963.
MAY 21 FRI 2:30 - 5:30PM 6 NEW HOT SHOT CHICKEN RECIPES TENDER ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN W SAUSAGE-APPLE STUFFING. CRISPY CHICKEN ROLLS, CRUNCHY CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS W CREAMY GRAVY. BAKED NUT-STUFFEDCHICKEN BREASTS, CHICKEN CROQUETTES W CHEESY SAUCE. CHICKEN BREASTS W MUSHROOM GRAVY ON FRENCH BAKER'S WHOLE WHEAT BREAD P980.
MAY 23 SUN 2:00 - 5:30PM NEW MONEY-MAKING BACON AND SAUSAGE 4 AMERICAN BACON, CANADIAN BACON CHORIZO DE BILBAO GERMAN WHITE FISH SAUSAGE, LONGANIZA ILONGGA ICLUDES ACTUAL SMOKING METHOD BONUS MORCILLAS(SPANISHBLOOD SAUSAGE) P980. BY LENI R. ARAULLO
MAY 25, 27, 29, 31 (4 DAYS) 9:00AM-5:00PM MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING P2,900. INCLUDING INGREDIENTS LUNCH & SNACK (EXCEPT) DECORATING MATERIALS LIKE PIPING BAGS, TIPS, ETC. AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CULINARY STUDIO OR BRING YOUR OWN
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MAY 28 FRI 2:30 - 6:00PM - 9 MONEY-MAKING RECIPES FOR TEENS & ADULT BEGINNERS CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES CHOCOLATE CRINKLES BUTTERSCOTCH BROWNIES. LENGUE DE GATO CHEWY MALLO BARS, RUSSIAN TEA COOKIES VIRGIE PANATALEON'S DATE WALNUT COOKIES. SPECIAL POLVORON, LEBANESE DATE BOAT TARTS P980.
JUNE 2 WED 2:30 - 5:30PM DELICIOUS RESTAURANT SPECIALTIES YOU WILL LOVE TO DO AT HOME! GARLIC ROASTED MAGNOLIA CHICKEN W PEPPER STEAK SAUCE, MONTEREY BEEF TENDERLOIN CUBES SALPICADO FETTUCINE W 3 DIFFERENT SAUCES PESTO (GARLIC BASIL) BLACK SQUID INK. CREAMY MAYO CHEESE DRESSINGS HOT CARAMEL BANANA FUDGE BROWNIE PIE W/ CREAM PLUS BONUS RECIPES OF CENTURY TUNA BURGERS BEEF BURGERS W DIFFERENT DRESSINGS P980.
JUNE 3 THU 2:30 - 5:30PM - SPECIAL LESSON ON MORE MONEY-MAKING OPPORTUNITIES. SAVORY STYLE FRIED CHICKEN ROAST MONTEREY PORK LIEMPO, MRS. OLIVIA TEE'S FOOKIEN STYLE AMOY FRESH LUMPIA PORK SIOMAI W QUAIL EGGS HONGKONG SHRIMP SIOMAI HACAO (SHRIMP DUMPLING W HOMEMADE CLEAR WRAPPER P980
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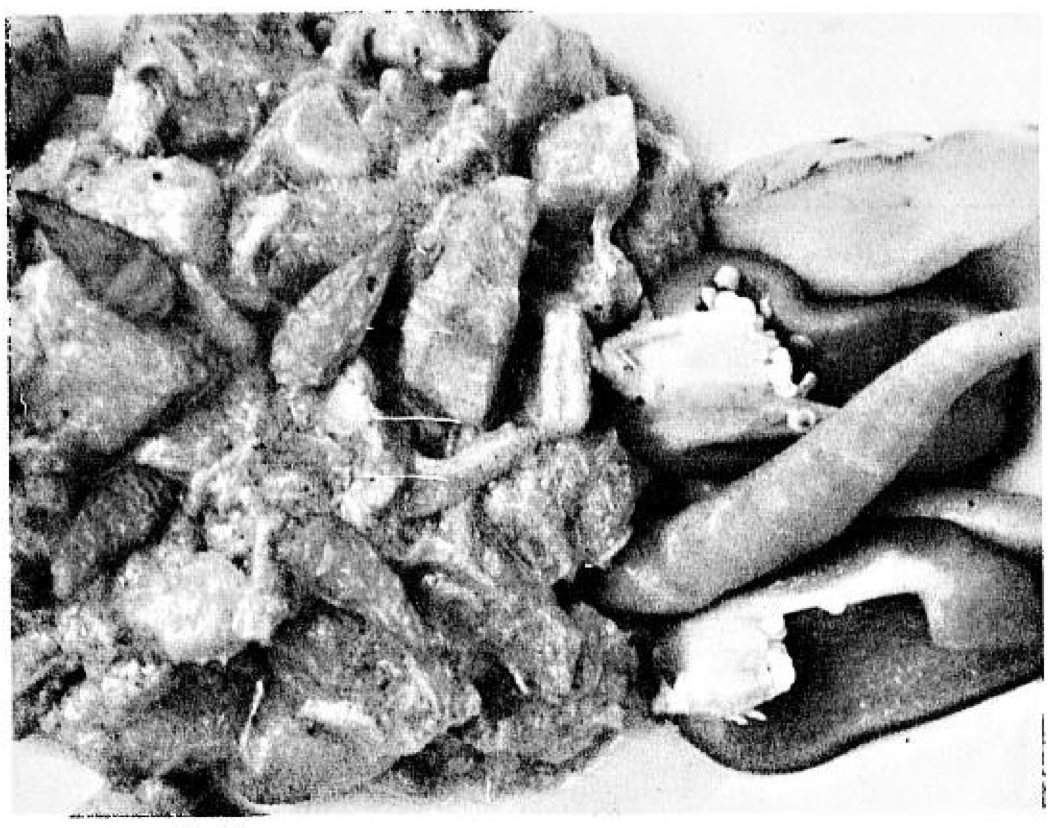
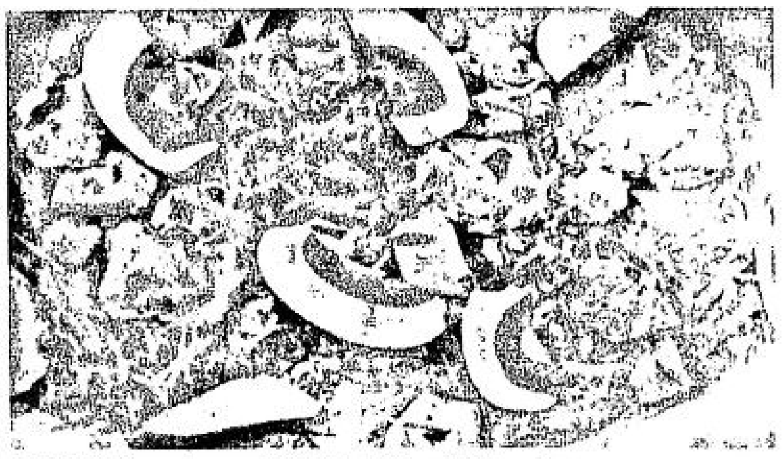

CELY Kalaw's Bicol Express

GLENDA Barretto's Chicken Adobo Flakes


NANCY Reyes-Lumen's Old-style Pancit Sotanghon

Chicken in a flash

From page D1

"With Chicken Chunks, you no longer need to chop nor cook your favorite chicken meat. You can enjoy it straight from the can," said Tommy Loanzon, vice president and project manager for Integrated Meats Approach of San Miguel Pure Foods Co., Inc.

There are six variants, starting with the two that the company soft-launched late last year—Chicken Chunk in Oil and Chicken Chunk in Water—and four new variants that are ready-to-eat whenever you crave chicken—adobo, afritada, curry, and hot & spicy. These are all deliciously prepared to readily partner with rice or bread.

Following are some recipes from the guest chefs using Purefoods Chicken Chunks.

Chicken Adobo Flakes with Sauteed Eggplant (Glenda Barretto)

2 cans Purefoods Chicken Chunks Adobo
2 pcs medium eggplant
2 tbsp oil (and ¾ c for frying)
1 tsp garlic
½ c onion, diced
1 c tomato, diced
2 eggs, lightly beaten

Drain meat thoroughly and reserve the liquid. Flake the meat using two forks. Heat oil and fry the flaked meat over medium heat stirring constantly until the meat turns crispy or about five minutes. Remove from oil and drain. Broil the eggplant, peel and cut into 2" lengths. Sauté garlic and onion then add the tomatoes. Add the eggs. When almost set, add eggplant. Remove from heat immediately. Heat reserved sauce and serve on the side.

SANDIQUE

QUIMSON

BARRETTO

Bringhe (Ed Quimson)

8 cans Purefoods Chicken Chunks Curry
¼ c *dilaw*, mashed
¾ c white onions, chopped
1/8 c garlic, minced
Salt
Pepper
2 c cooked *malagkit* rice
2 c cooked rice
4 salted eggs
½ c chorizo macau, sliced

Sauté onions, garlic in oil until caramelized then add mashed *dilaw*. Add 8 cans of Purefoods Chicken Chunks Curry and let it simmer until it reduces to half. Add the cooked *malagkit* and ordinary rice. Add salt and pepper to taste. Top it with salted egg and chorizo macau and bake it for 30 minutes.

Old-style Pancit Sotanghon (Nancy Reyes-Lumen)

3 cans Purefoods Chicken Chunks in water, drained

2 tbsps *achuete* oil (1 tbsp *achuete* seeds heated in 2 tbsps oil till color is orange. Remove seeds and use oil.)

¼ kg young garlic (still attached to green stems. Use the stems also, chop finely.)

1 small bundle (50 g) *kinchay* (Chinese parsley), chopped finely

150 g dried *sotanghon*, softened in water

1-2 whole hard-boiled duck eggs or if not available, salted eggs, chopped

Salt
Freshly ground pepper

For broth:

2 cubes chicken seasoning (or 2 tbsps chicken powder)

3 c hot water

Heat *achuete* oil. Sauté young garlic until wilted. Add *sotanghon* and 1 cup of broth. Let noodles absorb liquid. Add chicken and *kinchay*. Add more broth. Allow noodles to absorb liquid (add more broth if needed, or hold broth if noodles are already soft and tasty.) Season with little salt but lots of pepper. Top with chopped duck eggs.

PURE FOODS
CHICKEN CHUNKS
Curry
in Vegetable Oil
VARIANTS of the first locally produced canned chicken product

Empanadang Kaliskis (Jill Sandique)

Crust:
4 c all-purpose flour, sifted
¼ c sugar
1 tsp iodized salt
½ c shortening
2 egg yolks
¾-1 c cold water

In a mixing bowl, sift together flour, sugar and salt. Cut in shortening until pea-size and mixture resembles a coarse corn meal. Meanwhile, beat egg yolks into water. Toss in liquid ingredients into flour mixture. Reserve 1/3 of dough for the lining. Form into a cylinder and chill. Pat the rest of the dough into a 4" x 8" rectangle, about 1" thick. Chill for 1-2 hours.

After resting dough in the refrigerator, cut the cylinder into 12-16 pieces. In a cornstarch-dusted board, flatten each piece into a 4" disk with a rolling pin. Refrigerate again.

Transfer the rectangular piece of dough into the same board. Dust with dough and board with more cornstarch. Roll out into a 6" x 22" rectangle. Roll up into a coil. Refrigerate for at least an hour. Cut the coil crosswise, into 12-16 pieces. Flatten each piece with a rolling pin into a 4" dish. Place the plain piece (dough for lining) over the coiled piece. Chill until needed.

Filling:
2 tbsps corn or vegetable oil
1 tbsp garlic, minced (about 3 cloves)
1/3 c onions, chopped
3 cans Purefoods Chicken Chunks in water or in oil, drained
¾ c cooked potatoes, cubed
1/3 c cooked carrots, cubed
¼ c raisins, plumped in hot water
½ tsp iodized salt
2 tsp sugar
¼ tsp ground black pepper
½ tsp soy sauce
¾ c water
3 tbsps all purpose flour
2 hard-boiled eggs
3-4 tbsps Magnolia Cheddar or Quickmelt Cheese, cubed or grated
2 tbsps sweet pickle relish, optional
4 c corn or vegetable oil, for frying

In a skillet, heat oil over low fire. Add garlic and onions. Sauté until onions become transparent. Add the Purefoods Chicken Chunks. Cook for two minutes, then add potatoes, carrots and raisins. Cook for 1 minute more. Season with salt, sugar, black pepper and soy sauce. Add the seasonings if necessary.

In a bowl, whisk together flour and water. Add Purefoods Chicken Chunks to mixture and allow to boil rapidly for 1 minute. Remove from fire and cool in an ice bath. Add the eggs, cheese and pickle relish. Keep mixture cold at all times.

Assembly:

Place ¼ cup of filling in the center of lining. Brush the sides with water and fold dough over filling to form a half circle. Flute edges to seal *empanada*. Chill until needed. When ready to cook, place oil in a deep fryer. Heat oil to 350-360 °F. Fry *empanadas*, a few at a time, until golden. Drain very well on cake racks. Serve warm.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Treat Mom to sumptuous feasts

DINING OUT

THE RICHMONDE Hotel's The Richmonde Grill presents a luncheon buffet of international cuisine on May 9. Selections include Baked Mussels in Herbed Garlic Butter, Chorizo Bouchees, Sinigang na Salmon sa Miso, Lamb Shank with Roasted Garlic, Grilled Rosemary Chicken, Pork Piccata, Beef Medallion with Mushroom Sauce and Paella a la Valenciana. Call 6387777.

MAKATI Shangri-La's Island Cafe offers fresh oysters, Chilean sea bass, smoked salmon, poached prawns, lobster tails, salad, sashimi and rack of lamb. Mothers who dine with four other persons get a raffle stub. An additional stub is given when you present your PAL-HSBC Mabuhay Miles Elite card. Get a chance to win a weekend stay at Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort's Superior Bay View Room with buffet breakfast, round-trip business class tickets to Cebu via Philippine Airlines for two persons. Call 8400884.

THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Restaurant Riviera features buffet selections on May 8 and 9. To be offered are prawns, oysters, blue marlin, codfish, sushi, sashimi, dim sum, roast duck, veal, rib eye, sirloin, prime rib, tenderloin steaks, pork tenderloin, pork rib, pork neck steak and lamb chops. Call 8548888.

MANDARIN Oriental Manila's Paseo Uno and Tin Hau feature Mother's Day buffets for brunch and dinner. The Tivoli also offers brunch consisting of an appetizer and dessert buffet with a choice of main course. At Mandarin Deli, a three-course set menu is available until May 9. Hampers of goodies are also offered.

JADE Garden Cantonese Restaurant offers a wide selection of set menus to choose from on May 9. As a special treat to moms, a Sweet Lucky Buns platter will be served at every dining table. Jade Garden is located at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati (tel. 8124548 or 8922319).

SAN Mig Pub and Restaurant presents Mom's old-time favorites like Prawn Thermidore, Paella, Spanish and Filipino delights. San Mig Pub is located at Corte delas Palmas, Alabang Town Center and El Pueblo, Ortigas Center, Pasig. Call 8073595 (Alabang) or 6327144 (Ortigas).

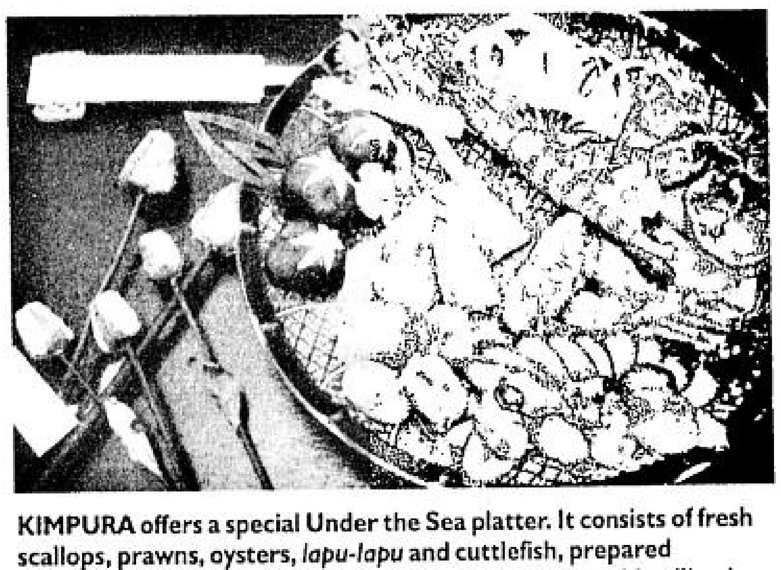
SULO Hotel's Cafe Paraiso features a Mother's Day lunch buffet to be served from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mothers can also bring home goodies and items. Call 9245051 to 71.

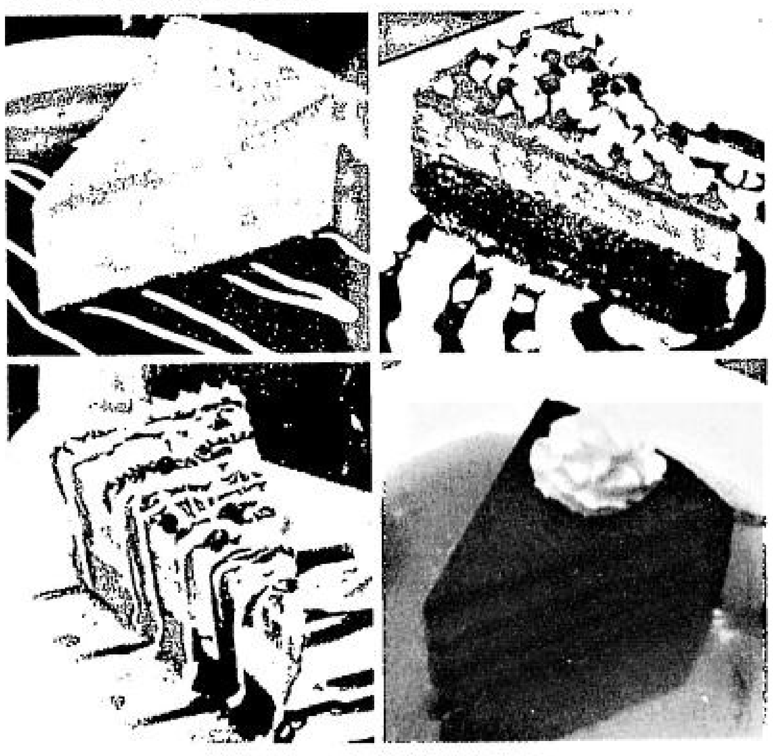
DUSIT Hotel Nikko showcases Asian and continental cuisines at Thien Duong Vietnamese, Benjarong Thai, Benkay Japanese and Fiesta San Miguel restaurants and The Cafe. Mothers dining in will receive a flower, souvenir snap shot, gift pack and discount vouchers. Call 8673333.

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza features The Longest Buffet where mothers can select offerings from Alfiere, China Sea and Cafe Plaza. Call 5515555.

CHATEAU 1771 Ortigas and Portico 1771 Malate will delight mothers with its no-borders cuisine on May 8-9. Two lucky moms will receive South Sea Pearl pendants when they dine in during the weekend. For this Saturday and Sunday, only the first 30 reservations in each resto will be awarded raffle coupons. Call 6317340 or 5232063.

ASTORIA Plaza in Ortigas, Pasig, presents a Mother's Day buffet menu on May 8-10. Diners can also sample Ate Glo's Mini Achoo-choo (Spanish deep-fried Choux pastry served with hot chocolate); FPJ's Panday Crepes (sliced mangoes wrapped in vanilla crepes); Roco's Mango Florets (cognac-flavored mango jubilee enhanced with Sabayon sauce); and Ping Goes Bananas (deep-fried sweet dough-coated bananas in vanilla ice cream).


KIMPURA offers a special Under the Sea platter. It consists of fresh scallops, prawns, oysters, *lapu-lapu* and cuttlefish, prepared teppanyaki-style. Kimpura is also giving away perfumed fossilized rose with long stem to all moms, and is good while supply lasts. Kimpura Japanese Restaurant is at the Greenhills Shopping Center (beside Uni-Mart), San Juan and 2/L, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati (8932307, 8924456).


BURGOO American Bar and Restaurant offers a special treat on Mother's Day. Just order two main entrees (a choice of Grilled Pork Chop, Seafood Linguine, Shrimp and Ribs Platter or Spinach Grilled Salmon) and get a free dessert (a choice of Raspberry Cheesecake, Mississipi Mudpie, Triple Decker Mousse or Chocolate Cake). All moms will receive a cook booklet, flowers and other items from Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce. Call 9277424, 8981815 or 6875254.

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
MONDAY	Toasted *pandesal* with *kesong puti* Spanish sardines Fruited chicken salad Coffee, chocolate or tea Bananas	Sweet and sour fish Vegetable chopsuey Rice Almond jelly with ripe mango balls	Tossed greens with vinegar and oil dressing Chicken *afritada* Rice Butter cake ala mode
TUESDAY	Omelet with cheddar cheese and spring onions Loaf bread Vienna sausage Coffee or fruit juice Papaya with calamansi	Pork *pata sinigang* with *gabi* and *kangkong* Rice Watermelon	Yang chow fried rice Fried chicken *Minatamis na saba* with *langka* and *sago*
WEDNESDAY	Cereal and milk Chicken hotdog Tuna on toast Coffee, fruit juice or iced tea	*Adobong pusit* *Gisadong upo* Rice *Leche flan*	Instant cream of asparagus soup Spanish paella Fresh fruit platter
THURSDAY	Hotcake or waffles with butter and hotcake syrup Pan grilled spam or ham Coffee, chocolate or iced tea Sliced oranges	Clam soup Beef *morcon* Rice Mini *kamote cue*	Spaghetti with meat sauce *Embotido* Garlic bread Mocha ice cream with coffee jelly topping
FRIDAY	Tuna sandwich Boiled eggs Coffee, chocolate or carrot juice Papaya	*Rellenong talong* *Halabos na hipon* Rice Banana *turon* with condensed milk dipping sauce	Chicken *kare kare* Rice Canned fruit cocktail with crushed ice
SATURDAY	Daing na bangus Rice Coffee, hot chocolate or iced tea Fresh fruit platter	Beef steak with onion rings Vegetable *lumpia* Rice Brazo de Mercedes	Oriental chicken salad Pork *asado* Rice *Gulaman at sago*
SUNDAY	*Ensaymada or mamon* Pan grilled ham Cheese platter Coffee, chocolate or fruit juice Ripe mangoes with cottage cheese	*Ginataang alimasag* *Pinakbet* Rice Assorted *kakanin*	Chicken *tinola* with green papaya and *sili* leaves Rice Fresh fruit platter

Easy-to-prepare breakfast for Mom

By Dorothy MJ Ferreria
Contributor

ONE of the thrills of being a mother is having breakfast in bed prepared by hubby and kids. For mothers who have been clipping our column, why not post this on the ref for everyone to read and do on Mother's Day.

A Happy Mother's Day to all!

Tuna Sandwich Filling

2 cans (185 g each) tuna in water, well-drained

1 hard-boiled egg, peeled and chopped

½ c mayonnaise

¼ c all-purpose cream

¼ tsp prepared mustard

Black pepper to taste

1 tbsp pickle relish

½ c grated cheddar cheese

Combine the ingredients in a bowl. Adjust seasonings to taste. Chill overnight to allow flavors to develop.

Split bread such as croissant, *pandesal* or hard rolls in half. Spread an adequate amount of butter on the cut side and toast briefly in the oven. Spread an adequate amount of filling on the bread and top with lettuce and sliced tomatoes. Top with the remaining half of the bread. Serve with potato chips or French fries on the side.

Fruited Chicken Salad

2 pcs chicken breast, boiled, skinned, boned and cut into chunks

1 c raw. elbow macaroni cooked according to package directions

1½ c well-drained canned peaches, cut into chunks or sweet, ripe mangoes, cubed

½ c canned cream

1 c mayonnaise

3 tbsp white sugar

½ c cubed cheddar cheese

Black pepper to taste

¼ c coarsely chopped walnuts

In a large bowl, toss together the chicken, cooked pasta and peaches. In a small bowl, combine the cream, mayonnaise, white sugar, cheese and black pepper. Add the dressing to the chicken mixture. Mix well. Chill until ready to serve. Fold in chopped walnuts before serving to preserve their crunchiness.

Coffee Jelly

90 g pack unflavored clear *gulaman*

1 tbsp coffee powder

1½ c water

In a saucepan, combine the ingredients for the gelatin. Place over medium heat and allow to boil for 2 minutes with constant stirring.

Pour the mixture into a glass dish and let set at room temperature for 30 minutes or chill for 15 minutes. Cut into ½-inch cubes. Use as a topping for hot or cold coffee together with whipped cream and a sprinkling of cinnamon.

Dorothy MJ Ferreria offers cooking, baking and cake decorating classes at Dorothy's Cooking School in Quezon City, at the Julius Maggi Kitchen in Makati and in key provincial cities. For classes, call 7217735 or e-mail dorothyferreria@skyinet.net.

Managing restos, canteens

RESTAURATEURS, hoteliers, resort and canteen operators and those planning to open their own food service business now have a chance to hone their skills when ProActive Center for Training (Pact) holds its Managing a Restaurant/Canteen seminar-workshop on May 12-24 (excluding weekends), 12 noon-5 p.m., at Ipanema Bar and Restaurant, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

The training will cover such topics as planning the concept, menu, location, layout and equipment; hygiene and sanitation; human resource development; and cost control among others. Foodservice consultants, restaurant and hotel executives, and professors of hotel and restaurant management are tapped to be facilitators.

Only 20 participants will be accepted. Seminar fee is P5,000 per participant inclusive of field trip to equipment and food suppliers in Metro Manila, manual, handouts, snacks, certificate of completion and workshop materials.

Reservations are currently accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. Call Pact at tel. no. 6871787 or mobile no. 0916-8226053.

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MAY - JUNE SCHEDULE
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May 01, Sat. - PRAWNS TO PLEASE. Chef Gene will teach us different styles of cooking prawns that you will enjoy. Recipes include Prawns Furai, Prawns Benihana, Sizzling Crystal Prawns in Chinese Bagoong, Prawns in Orange Sauce, Prawns in Tamarind Sauce (Crustacean Style) and Prawns in Caramelized Walnuts for P950.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 12:00 noon.

May 02, Sun. - PINOY KAKANIN 2. For the 2nd part of Pinoy kakanin, let Chef David teach you Moron, Tibok-tibok, Kutsinta, Maja Ube, Kalamay na Malagkit, Palitao and Bibingkang Malagkit for P950.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

May 04, Tues. - EVERYBODY LOVES CHICKEN 1. Chicken dishes from Chef Junjun for the whole family to enjoy. Chicken Pennis, Dutch Oven Roast Chicken, Spanish Chicken Stew, Chicken Teriyaki, Oven BBQ Chicken and Pollo Parmigiana for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 1:00 p.m.

May 06, Thurs. - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 4. Chef Gino is meant to put a smile on every person seated on the table for all the recipes he will be sharing with us. Recipes include Cream of Spinach Soup; Corn, Asparagus and Green Salad, Fish fillet al Caparas, Meatloaf with Pan Gravy and Pannacotta with Honey for P950.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 08, Sat. - TEAHOUSE SPECIALTIES 1. Take the specialties of the best teahouses from Chef Gene Gonzalez and prepare them in your kitchen - simply! Recipes include Spicy Eggplant In Pot, Braised Soy Beef, Shrimp Dumpling, Amoy Lumpia, Drunken Chicken and Favorite Lemon Chicken for P950.00 from 9:00 - 12:00 noon

May 11, Tues. - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 5. French Onion Soup, Frito Misto, Salmon Fillet en Papillote, Breaded Veal Cutlet and No Sweat Tiramisu are the recipes that Chef Gino will teach us. Recipes include all ingredients for P950.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 12, Wed. - EASY CHOCOLATE DESSERTS. Using the world's finest chocolate - Callebaut, Chef Junjun teaches you easy and different desserts for the whole family to enjoy. Triple Chocolate Tiramisu, White Chocolate Crème Brulee, Chocolate Cheesecake, Chocolate Pavlova, Chocolate Bread Pudding and Chocolate Banana Pie for P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m.

May 13, Thurs. - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 6. Chef Gino is meant to put a smile on every person seated on the table for all the recipes he will be sharing with us. Creamy Vegetable Soup, Mixed Mushroom Turnover, Stuffed Chicken Breast with Balsamic Syrup, Grilled Beef Tenderloin with Garlic and Black Olive Puree and Coffee Jelly with Amaretto Cream plus a bonus of Toffee Apples. P950.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 14, Fri. - MODERN AND EASY PASTA SAUCES 2. The Sequel to Chef Junjun's class — now he will do simple sauces made with extraordinary ingredients - definitely a palate enhancer. Let's see him demonstrate: Chicken and Chorizo Lasagne, Fettuccine with Shrimp Pesto, Smoked Salmon Linguine, Pasta alla Rustica, Ziti with Beef Short Ribs and Orga's Pasta Salad for P950.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 15, Sat. - MIGHTY MOUSSE. Simple and easy to learn recipe mousse from Chef Buddy Trinidad of Park Avenue Desserts will be demonstrated. Recipes are Quadruple Mousse Dome, Banana Mousse with Sesame Nougat, Citrus Mousse Cone, Roasted Almond Dacquoise and Tiramisu Mousse. The recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. for P1,200.00. NEW CLASS.

May 16, Sun. - THE CRAB IS KING 1. Recipes from Chef Gene that are all time restaurant favorites and can be prepared this holiday season includes Tran-Long Crab, Crab Cakes, Stuffed Crab Bisque, Fried Salted Spicy Crab and Quampong with Crabmeat. P950.00 including all ingredients from 9:00 - 12:00 noon.

May 17, Mon. - THE ART OF JAPANESE FRYING. Chef Riichi Aoki from Osaka, Japan teaches the simple art of Favorite Japanese Fried Dishes in this class that features Tempura, Katsudon, Tonkatsu, Donburi plus the sauces that accompanies every dish. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 18, Tues. - SIMPLE SUSHI & SASHIMI WORKSHOP 1. This Sushi and Sashimi Workshop of Chef Aoki from Osaka Japan where the student will learn simple and basic sushi and sashimi making that you can do and serve to your family and friends. Trimming of Tuna, Sushi Rice, Tekkadon, California Rolls, Lapu-lapu Uzusukuri, Tuna Temaki, Tekka Temaki and Kani Sarada Temaki are the recipes that he will teach. P1,000.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 19, Wed. - A TASTE OF VIETNAM 1. Learn delicious Vietnamese Cuisine from Nga Nguyen de Lemos, owner of Vietnamese Food House. Recipes include Pho Bo (Beef Noodle Soup), Goi Cuon (Fresh Springrolls with Shrimp and Pork), Pho Ap Chao (Fried Rice Stick noodles with Squid and Shrimps), Cha Ca Thang Long (Grilled Fish with Dill), Goi Rau Muong Tai Bo (Swamp Cabbage with Sauteed Beef Salad) and Che Bap (Sweet Corn with Coconut Milk) for P1,200.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 20, Thurs. - GENE'S FAVORITE PASTA SAUCES 1. Seafood in Saffron Creme & Prosciutto, Squid Ink, Vegetarian White Cheese and Herbs, Sicilian Tuna Roe and many more are the recipes that Chef Gene will teach us. P950.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 21, Fri. - CHEESECAKES WITH A DIFFERENCE. Chef Adoree Chong Uy will present new ways to prepare cheesecakes. Recipes include Ube Mousse Cheesecake, Langka Cheesecake, Mango Cheesecake, Dalandan Curd Cheesecake, Pandan Cheesecake and Green Tea Cheesecake for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 22, Sat. - ALL ABOUT SATE. Chef Gene brings out his authentic Indonesian and Malaccan family recipes from study trips and teaches you how to prepare the different spice pastes for sate, the sauce and the Nasi Lemak and the authentic Nasi Goreng. Recipes include all ingredients for P950.00 from 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

May 23, Sun. - SIMPLE AND EASY FISH DISHES. Simple and easy fish dishes from Chef David such as Assam Curried Pampano, Sizzling Bangus Nuggets, Sisig, Kinilaw na Likod ng Bangus, Fish Meuniere with Hazelnut Butter, Smoked Tilapia Tom Yam, Steamed Apahap Fillet with Chinese Ham and Mushrooms and Fish Teriyaki from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. for P950.00 including all ingredients.

May 24, Mon. - THE SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 1. Recipes from Chef David for you to learn that can be use in business or as gifts. The recipes are Italian Sausage, Morcillas or Blood Sausage, Longganisang Calumpit, Breakfast Pork Sausage, Seafood Sausage, Sulipan Sausage and Chorizo de Jabali. Recipes include all ingredients for P950.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

May 25, Tues. - A TASTE OF VIETNAM 2. A sequel to Chef Nga Nguyen de Lemos Vietnam cuisine for you to enjoy, the recipes are Cha Gio Tom (Fried Springroll with Shrimps), Goi Buoi Hai Sang (Pomelo Salad with Jellyfish), Ca Kho To (Caramelized Fish in Hot Pot), Banh Xeo (Vietnamese Omelette), Phoxao Bo (Sauteed Holan with Beef and Kailan Leaves and Che Dau Xanh (Yellow Beans with Coconut Milk) for P1,200.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. including all ingredients

May 27, Thurs. - SPANISH TAPAS 2. Great Canapes to Serve at Parties from Betina Legarda of Gourmet's Palate, the recipes are Baked Mussels with Prosciutto and Mozzarella, Marinated Seafood in Seashell, Delicious Spinach Span Allopitas, Salmon Pate with Melba Toast, Chilled Lemony Mushrooms, Cold Jumbo Shrimps In Porcelain Spoon and Stuffed Grapes for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

May 28, Fri. - BAKED ITALIAN PASTA. Baked pasta recipes from Chef Junjun that all will enjoy to cook, make and eat. The recipes are Canneloni, Baked Rigatoni with Porcini Mushrooms, Shrimp and Scallop Lasagne, Macaroni with Eggplant and Mozzarella and for the last recipe, Penne with Gorgonzola and Spinach. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,200.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

May 29, Sat. - SUNDAY DISHES. Delicious hearty and family meals is what Chef Gene offers such as Lengua Sulipeña, Pescado con Mayonesa, Callos, Roast Chicken with Apples and White Sausage Stuffing with Caramelized Onion Sauce, Baked Leeks with Gruyere and Sopa de Flan for P950.00 from 9:00 - 12:00 noon including all ingredients

May 30, Sun. - ADOBO CLASS. Adobong Balut, Adobo sa Gata, Adobong Sugpo sa Taba ng Talangka are some of the recipes that Chef David Fajardo will be teaching. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,000.00 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS

Jun. 01, Tues. - BAKING MADE EASY 2. A sequel to Chef Junjun's class for baking beginners, simple and popular baking recipes that's good for business. Soft Dinner Rolls, Oatmeal Cookies, Chocolate Brownies, Food for the Gods and Orange Butter Cake. From 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. for P990.00 including all ingredients. NEW CLASS

THE PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian cooking, wine appreciation and table service.

The program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also prepare a Legacy buffet. The program has Internship or In-house Practicum for 200 hours and Externship or Outside Practicum for 200 hours. Enrollment includes 3 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used.

Classes will start on May. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady

ST DALFOUR
LEMON TEA

Fancy afternoon tea

SHOW Mom how much you appreciate her on Mother's Day by treating her to a fancy afternoon family tea at French Baker.

Offer her one of the St. Dalfour Organic teas and a freshly-baked chocolate brownies, Danish pastries, almond croissants and fruits-in-bread varieties, blueberry streussels, mango custard or banana walnut.

She can also bring home the baked goodies—bromate free and with no preservatives added—packed in attractive gift boxes.

The French Baker has 27 stores in Metro Manila, Pampanga, Metro Cebu, Valenzuela and Dau.

Cooking classes

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts announces the following schedule of classes:

May 7 (Friday)—Crispy Fried Chicken (learn eight fried chicken recipes): KFC, Max's, Herbed, Bagoong, Oven Baked, etc., side dishes, sauces, homemade catsup, etc.

May 8 (Saturday)—Barbecue 101 (repeat): Learn how to prepare Baby Back Ribs, Pork Chops, Tuna Steaks, Lamb Chops, Hamburgers, Chicken, Mixed Meat Vegetables and Fruit Kebabs, Rubs and Marinades; 10 Barbecue Sauces from basic to exotic; Salads and Side Dishes.

May 12 (Wednesday)—Fresh Catch 101 (all-new): Norwegian Salmon done three ways, Chilean Sea Bass done three ways, Sole and Flounder done four ways. Soup, salad side dishes and dessert. Over 12 exciting recipes.

May 14 (Friday)—Perfect Roasts 101 (all-new): Learn how to Roast Beef, Chicken, Lamb and Pork the right way. Angus Rib-eye Roast with Wild Mushroom, Gravy and Fruit Jam. Chicken Roasted three ways—Garlic, Mushroom Stuffed and Olive oil and Herb Injected. Lamb leg roast with four sauces. Traditional succulent Roast Pork with sauces, side dishes, soup, salad

May 15 (Saturday)—Ultimate Chocolate Collection: Flour-less Chocolate Custard Cake, Decadent Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Decadence Cake, Dark German Chocolate Cake, White German Chocolate Cake

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744 or 0917-8399888.

Japanese chef to share his secrets

CHEF Seiji Kamura, author of the "Secrets of Japanese Cookbook," will hold a special session 2-6 p.m., Saturday, May 15, at the Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center.

Learn how to prepare authentic Japanese dishes like Mixed Sashimi, Ramen Noodle, Soba, Donburi, Gyoza, Yakitori, plus the New Wave Maki. Slots are limited for the one-day session.

Meanwhile, the Maya Kitchen offers the second round of the Junior Culinary Workshop (for children 6-12 years old) May 11-12, and the Young People's Cook-in for teens May 13-15.

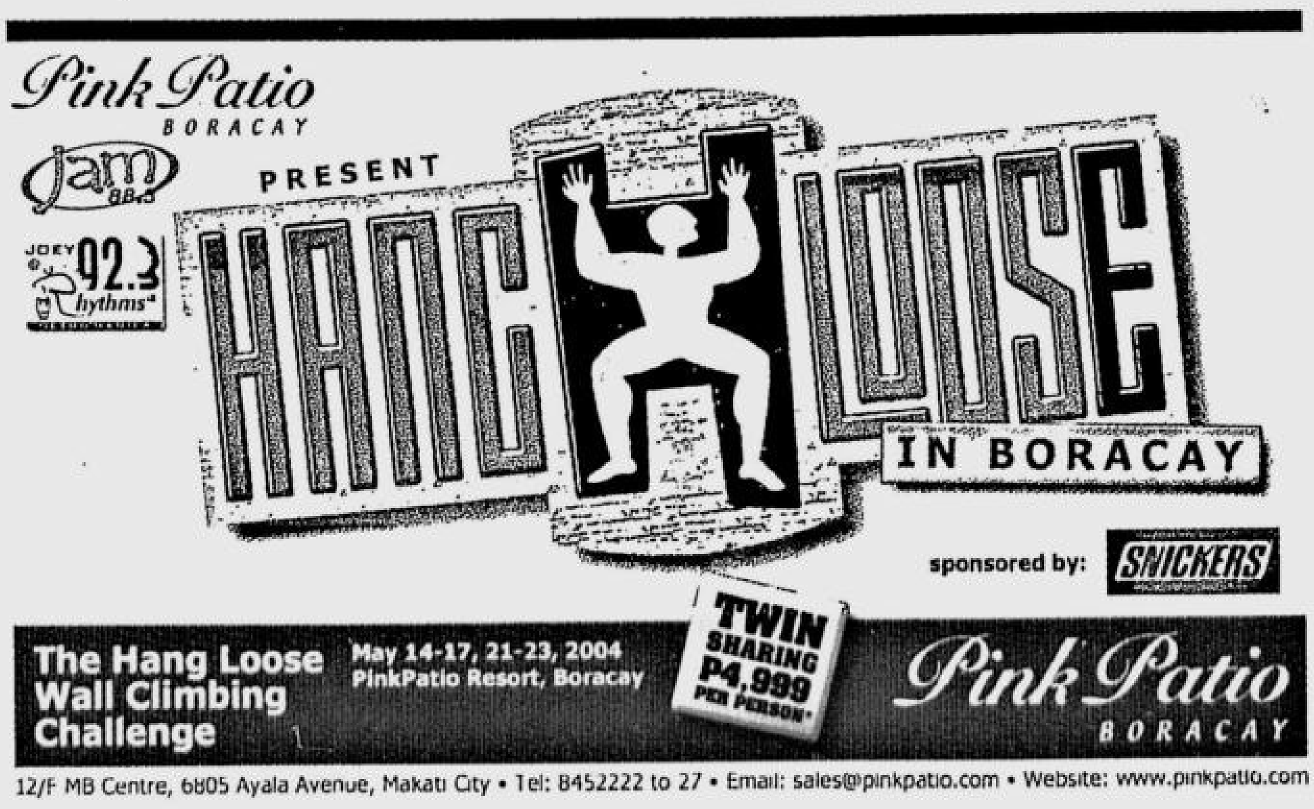
Both are hands-on workshops on preparing a variety of snacks and main dishes. The classes feature an all-new line-up of recipes.

The Maya Kitchen offers a catering seminar for people who would like to earn extra income, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Friday to Saturday, May 7-8. Learn how to set up a successful catering business—from securing the necessary permits to planning the menu and setting up the buffet table and arrangement to making those intricate skirted tablecloths.

You can also attend the Baking from Scratch and Prepared Mixes class, 2-5 p.m., Saturday, May 8. Learn how to bake delicious brownies, carrot cake, banana loaf, muffins, crinkles, etc.

Waiters can attend the Waitering and Bartending Seminar, 2-6 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, May 11-14. Topics to be discussed are etiquette, table set-up, napkin folding, wines and spirits.

For inquiries, visit the Maya Kitchen (Tuesdays to Saturdays) at the 8/F Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), tel. 8921185 or 8925011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.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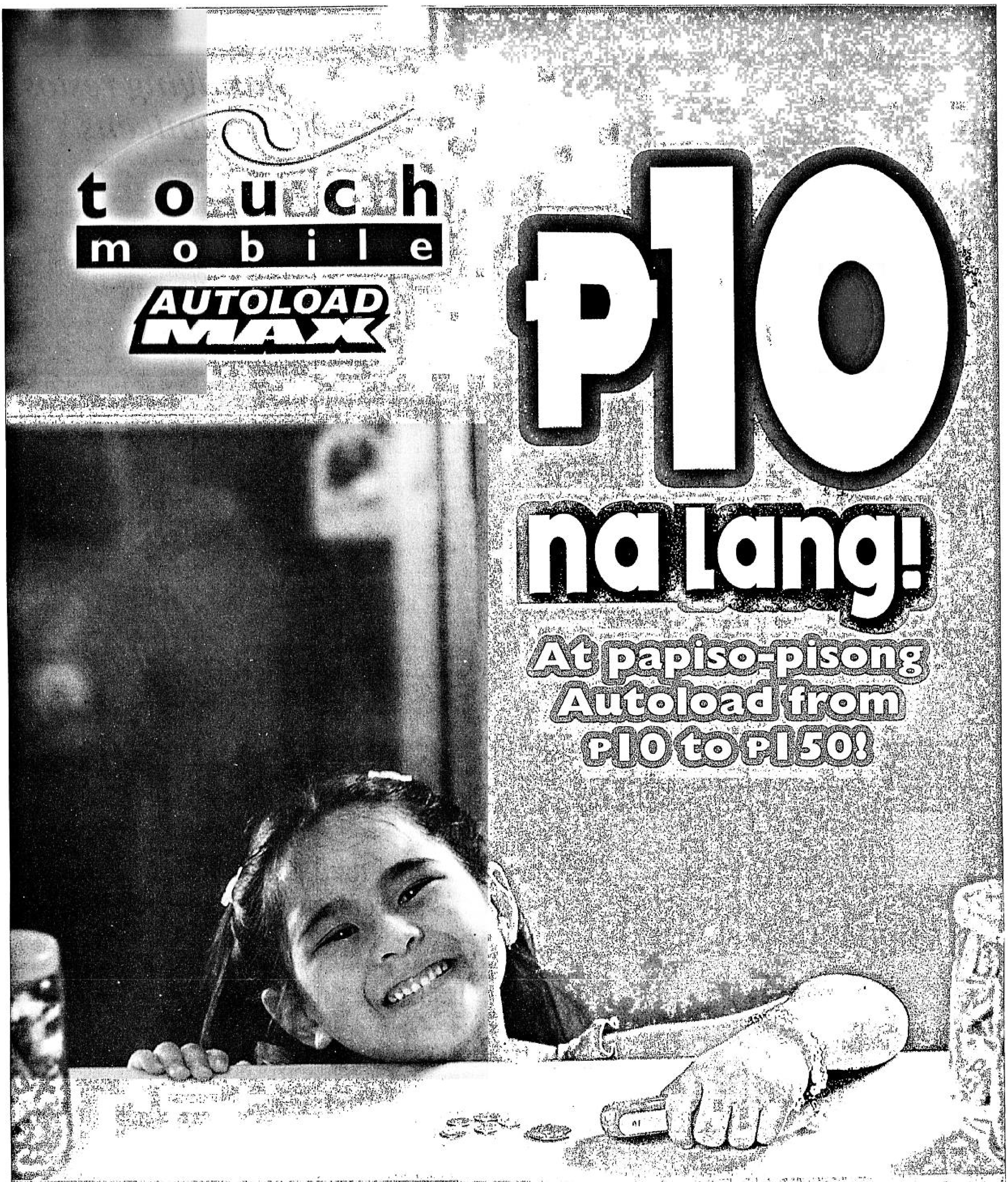
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₱70 - ₱79	8 days	30 days
₱80 - ₱89	9 days	30 days
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₱100 - ₱119	15 days	60 days
₱120 - ₱150	18 days	60 days

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A bit of Hong Kong in this Ortigas kitchen /E3

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LIFESTYLE

A cook's glossary of terms

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

LAST issue we featured two of the most requested recipes.

This week, we're dealing with some of the most frequently asked questions like: How many tablespoons to a cup? What is the basic oven temperature? What is blanch, braise... ?

Did it ever occur to you that blanch isn't one of the characters in "Golden Girls?" That dribble is not exclusive to basketball or that plunging does not always refer to necklines?

So here are some basic culinary terms. Happy cooking!

Al dente—Cook until tender but firm to the bite

Bake—Cook by dry heat inside an oven. Standard baking temperature, 350°F/approx. 175°C

Baste—To moisten food with fat or other liquids while cooking

Blanch—To plunge food into boiling water for a few seconds, then cold water and drain.

Boil—To cook food in a generous amount of liquid at boiling temperature, 100°C.

Bone/de-bone—To remove bones from raw meat

Braise—To brown in a small amount of fat quickly (sauté), then cook slowly in a small amount of liquid in a covered pan either on top of a stove or in an oven.

Broil—To cook food directly under or above the heat source in an oven or barbecue grill

Caramelize—To gently cook food until the sugars turn brown

Carve—To cut raw or cooked food into slices or pieces

Deep-fry—To immerse in sufficient hot fat/oil to cover food

Dredge—To coat/sprinkle food usually with flour or sugar

Dribble/drizzle—To pour liquid very slowly and gently over food

Emulsify—To combine two liquids which do not mix e.g. oil and vinegar

Flambé (Flame)—To pour small quantities of hot liquid containing alcohol over food and then set alight

Fold—To combine whisked mixtures by cutting and turning with a metal spoon to retain lightness

Fry—To cook in a small amount of fat in an open pan

Garnish—To decorate or embellish

Glaze—To coat food to give it a glossy finish, usually with beaten egg, egg white, milk, syrup, sugar glaze or reduced juices

Grill—To cook food under a heat source, with or without the addition of fat

Knead—To work dough by folding, stretching and pummeling with heel of hand

Pare—Thinly peel vegetables or fruit.

Parboil—To boil or simmer until partially cooked.

Pickle—To preserve vegetables etc. in brine, vinegar, oil and spices

Plunge/shack—To cool rapidly by immersing in cold wa-

A COOK'S/ E3

entertainment LIVE!
may weekend jammin'
/07 FRI 5PM
@ENTERTAINMENT PLAZA, SM CITY NORTH EDSA
/08 SAT 5PM
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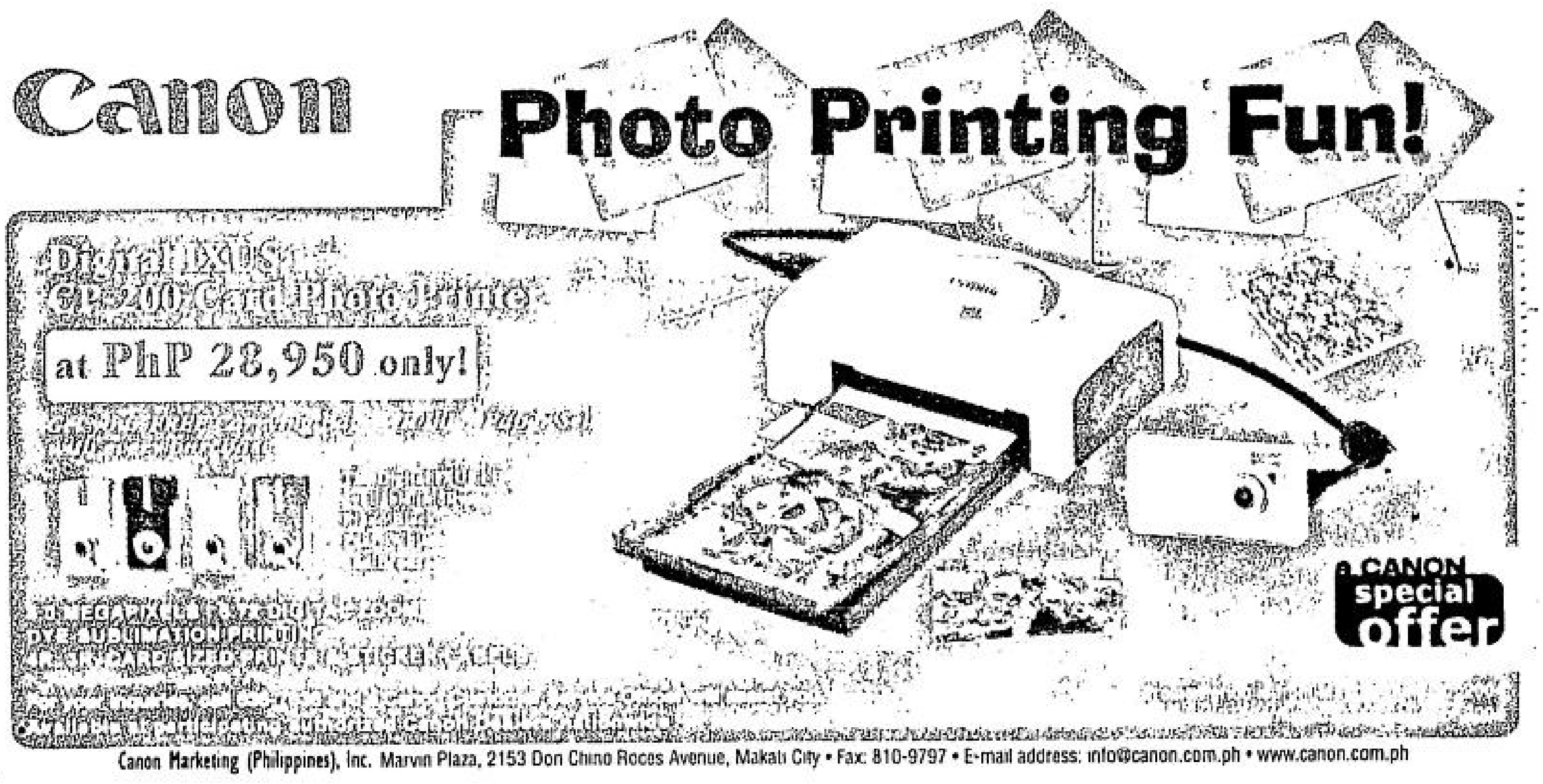

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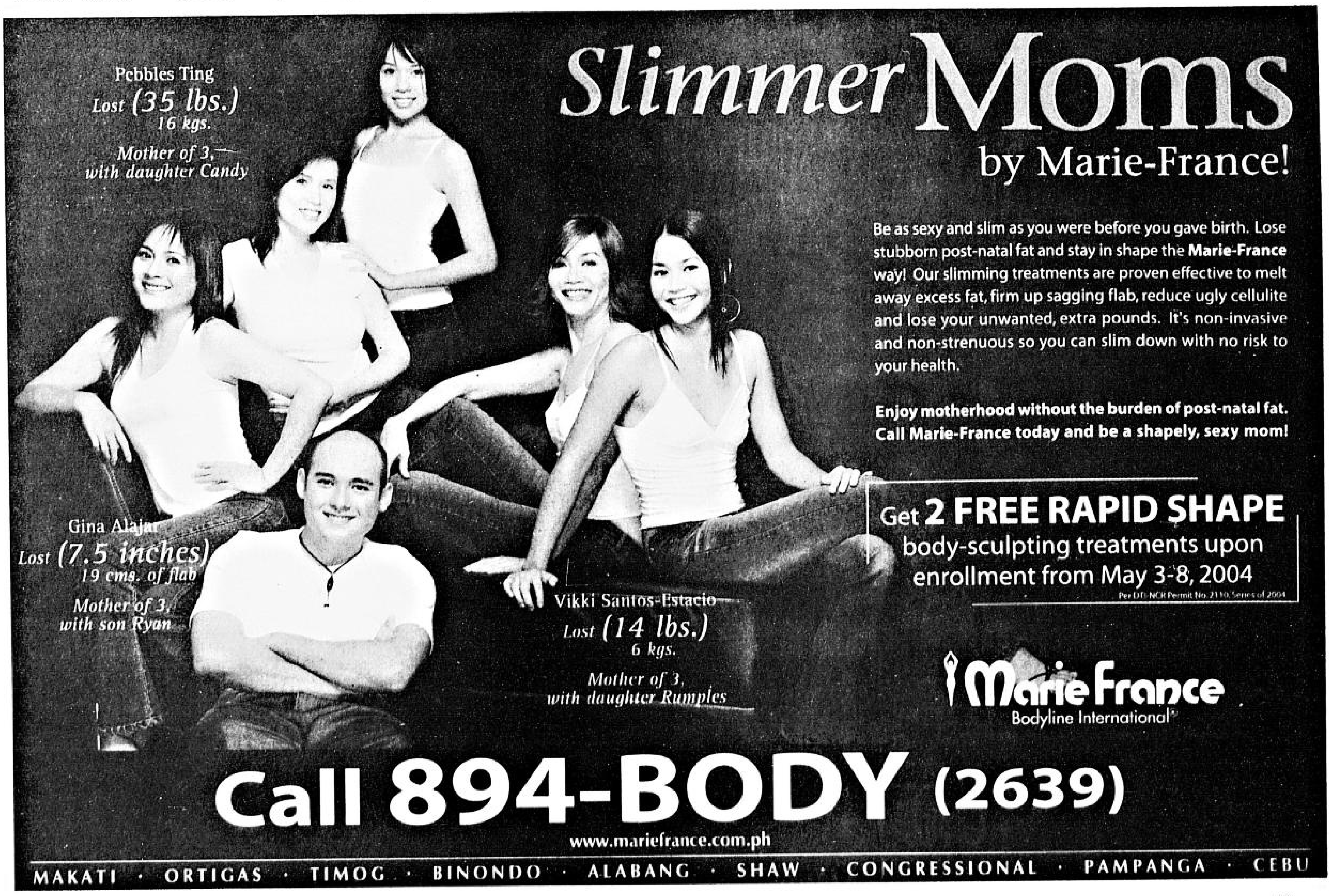

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by Marie-France!
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Mother of 3, with daughter Candy
Gina Alajar
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19 cms. of flab
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Vikki Santos-Estacio
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Mother of 3, with daughter Rumples
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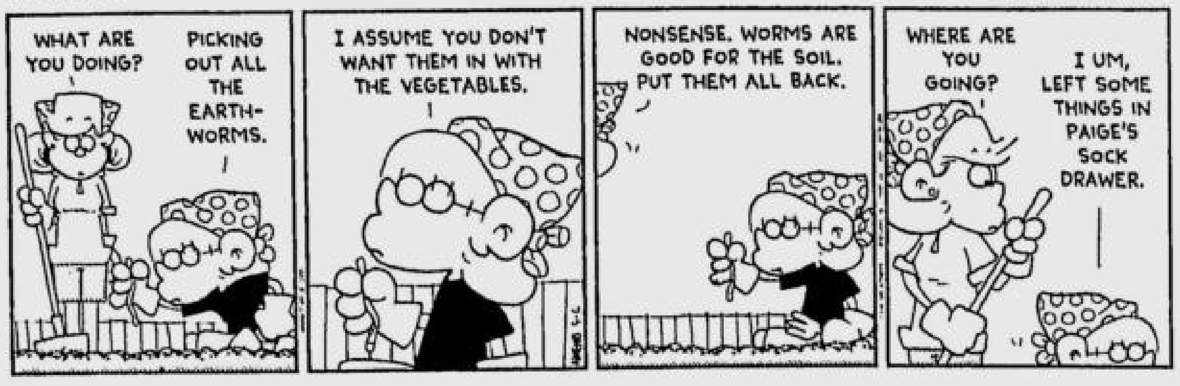
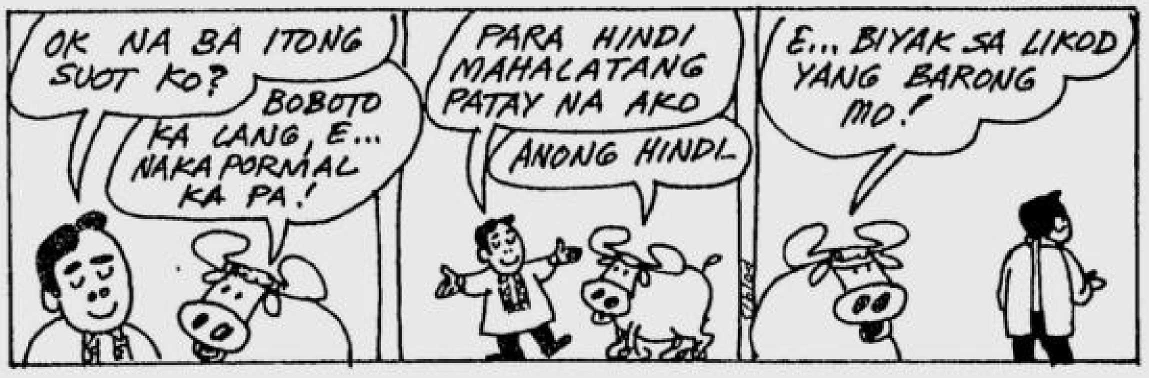
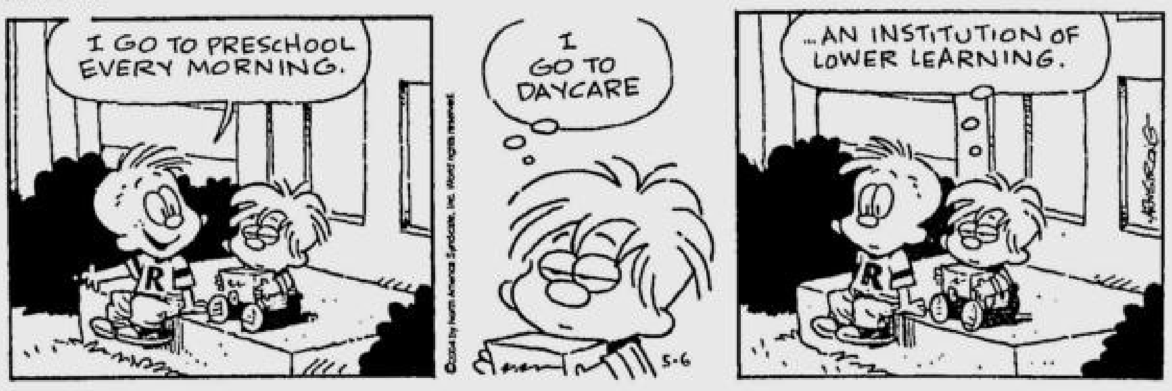
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
PICKING OUT ALL THE EARTHWORMS.
I ASSUME YOU DON'T WANT THEM IN WITH THE VEGETABLES.
NONSENSE. WORMS ARE GOOD FOR THE SOIL. PUT THEM ALL BACK.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I UM, LEFT SOME THINGS IN PAIGE'S SOCK DRAWER.

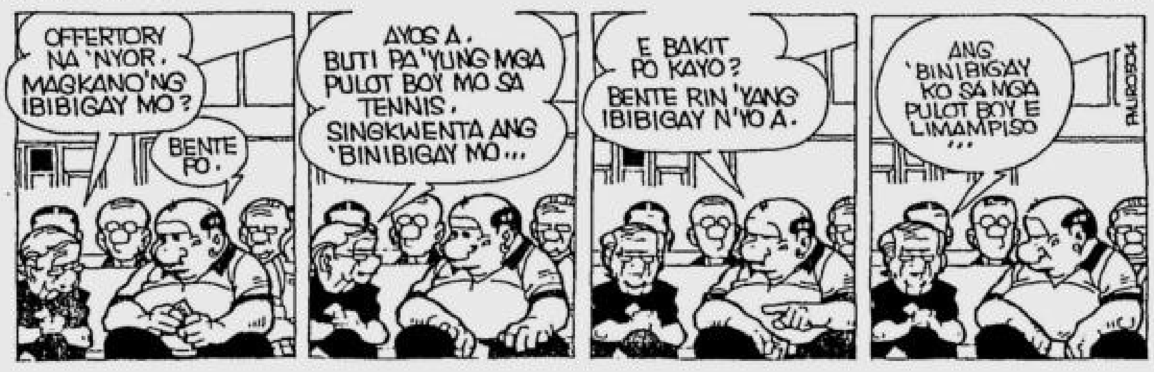
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


OK NA BA ITONG SUOT KO?
BOBOTO KA LANG, E... NAKA PORMAL KA PA!
PARA HINDI MAHALATANG PATAY NA AKO
ANONG HINDI
E... BIYAK SA LIKOD YANG BARONG MO!

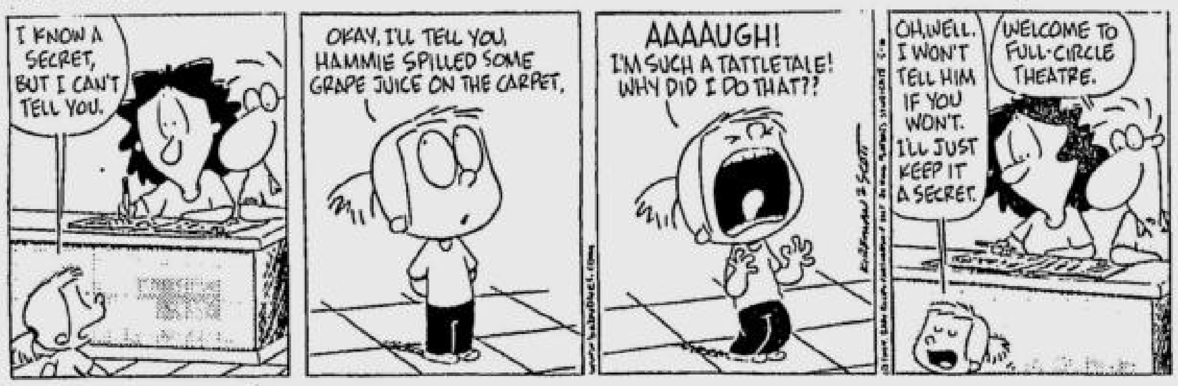
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I GO TO PRESCHOOL EVERY MORNING.
I GO TO DAYCARE
...AN INSTITUTION OF LOWER LEARNING.
5-6

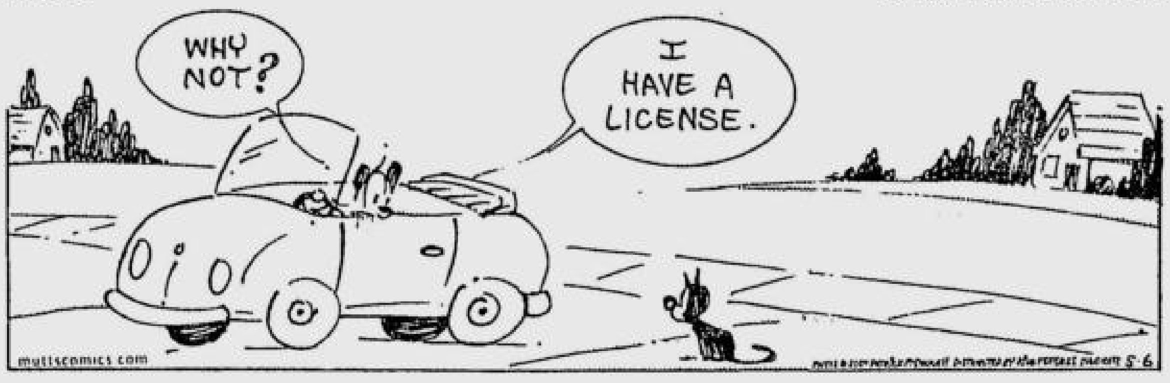
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


OFFERTORY NA 'NYOR. MAGKANO'NG IBIBIGAY MO?
BENTE PO.
AYOS A. BUTI PA 'YUNG MGA PULOT BOY MO SA TENNIS. SINGKWENTA ANG 'BINIBIGAY MO...
E BAKIT PO KAYO? BENTE RIN 'YANG IBIBIGAY N'YO A.
ANG 'BINIBIGAY KO SA MGA PULOT BOY E LIMAMPISO ...

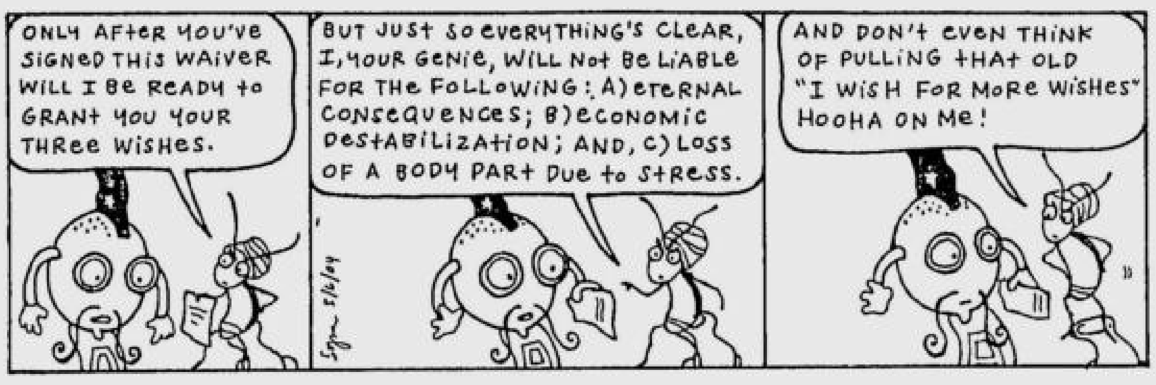
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


I KNOW A SECRET, BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU.
OKAY, I'LL TELL YOU. HAMMIE SPILLED SOME GRAPE JUICE ON THE CARPET.
AAAAUGH! I'M SUCH A TATTLETALE! WHY DID I DO THAT??
OH, WELL. I WON'T TELL HIM IF YOU WON'T. I'LL JUST KEEP IT A SECRET.
WELCOME TO FULL-CIRCLE THEATRE.

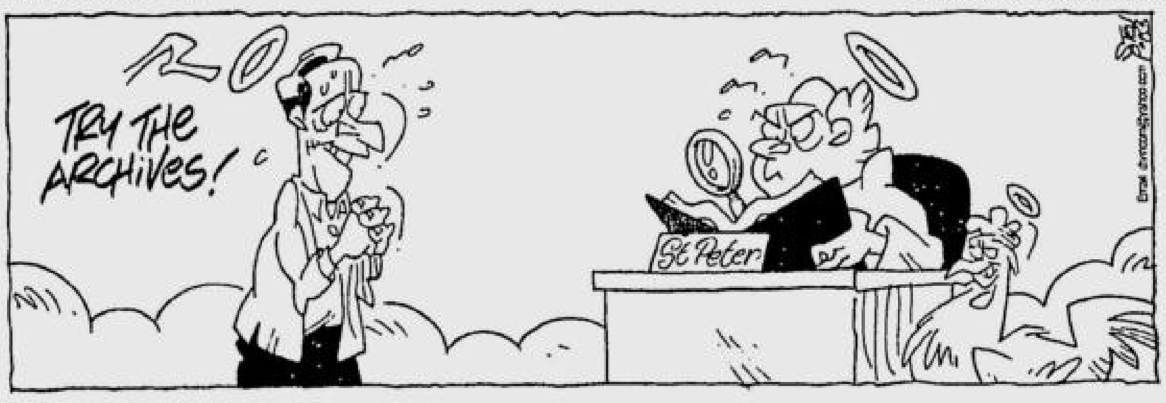
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHY NOT?
I HAVE A LICENSE.
muttscomics.com
5-6

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


ONLY AFTER YOU'VE SIGNED THIS WAIVER WILL I BE READY TO GRANT YOU YOUR THREE WISHES.
BUT JUST SO EVERYTHING'S CLEAR, I, YOUR GENIE, WILL NOT BE LIABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING: A) ETERNAL CONSEQUENCES; B) ECONOMIC DESTABILIZATION; AND, C) LOSS OF A BODY PART DUE TO STRESS.
AND DON'T EVEN THINK OF PULLING THAT OLD "I WISH FOR MORE WISHES" HOOHA ON ME!
5/6/04

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


TRY THE ARCHIVES!
St Peter

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a shrewd insight into others. This astute quality allows you to be an excellent teacher, counselor and sympathetic parent. You have a vivid imagination. You generally take the side of the underdog, because of your sensitive nature. The year ahead might be one of the best years of your life!

Birthdate of: George Clooney, actor; Sigmund Freud, founder of psychoanalysis; Rudolph Valentino, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Unusual ideas about different philosophies and religions attract you today. You might discuss these subjects with a female friend. You want to learn something.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a good day to check your bank account to get a better picture of your financial scene. Don't let things slide (no matter how depressing you think the picture is).

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): With the Moon opposite your sign today, you have to be more patient and giving with others. Don't be demanding. Listen to what people have to say.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Make an extra effort to tidy things up at work or at home today. Just give it 30 minutes. You'll be surprised by how much you can get done!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Treat yourself to a few moments of just plain fun today. You need a little play time! (When you reward yourself, you feel better and then you get so much more done.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discussions with a parent might be significant today. Someone at home or within your family needs your attention. You also need a little bit of solitude today. Try to respect this.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Travel plans and matters connected with publishing, the media or higher education keep you hopping now! You can't do it all, but just about.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You might be able to buy something beautiful or imaginative today. You want something different and unusual. You also want something luxurious. (Why not?)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): The Moon is in your sign today. This makes you feel more emotional about practically everything. Fortunately, it also brings a slight advantage to you in everything that you do.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You need a few moments of solitude today. This will help to pull your act together. Once you have things mentally lined up, then you can act.

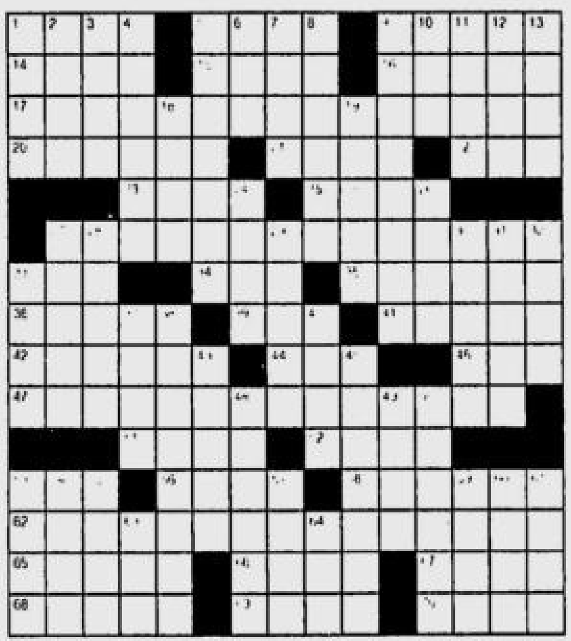
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is an excellent day for a heart-to-heart discussion with a friend—probably a female friend. Set aside some time for this. (You know how you value your friendships.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You'll do something that brings attention to you today. Keep this in mind before you suddenly sound off about something. People are watching!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Use acid for art
5 Soccer star Mia
9 In what place?
14 "Six Feet Under" co-star Taylor
15 Zeno of __
16 Golf-course increments
17 Start of a Boot Hill epitaph
20 Of bone
21 Arduous
22 Primatologist's subject
23 Canadian tribe
25 Flutie or Henning
27 Part 2 of epitaph
33 Sprint rival
34 Black goo
35 One who exhales wearily
36 Chagall and Cohn
39 Pointed end
41 Racetrack tipsters
42 Encroachment
44 Overflow letters
46 Former Chinese leader
47 Part 3 of epitaph
51 Winged wader
52 Palm blow
53 Take a pew
56 Invites
58 Stage whispers
62 End of epitaph
65 Fang
66 Transmit
67 Feudal serf
68 Gives the cold shoulder to
69 Last blow in the ring
70 Pick a field

DOWN
1 Nevada town
2 Sardine containers
3 Blood formation
4 Ultramodern
5 Packard's partner
6 Tenn. neighbor
7 Webwork
8 Fortress on the Dead Sea
9 Mystery
10 Stolen or popular
11 Isle of exile
12 Stay on in the army
13 Italian noble family
18 Pol root
19 Mr. Perot
24 French state
26 Kind of dancer
27 Meager
28 High clouds
29 Place for a watch or a slap
30 Opposable digit
31 Bristles
32 Estimator's words
33 2002
37 "__ fan Tutti"
38 Days of worship
40 HST or DDE
43 Believer in God
45 Magic place?
48 Tongue-clicking sounds
49 Chore
50 One with two cents to put in?
53 Fast fliers
54 PC image
55 Quaker's pronoun
57 Diamond of Queens?
59 Medication portion
60 Sicilian rumbler
61 Dance move
63 NYC gambling center
64 Even one



By Bruce Venzke & Stella Daily
Madison, WI
5/6/04

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	I	D	S	T	■	S	P	A	S	■	E	L	L	S
E	R	R	O	R	■	T	A	R	P	■	L	E	A	H
L	A	I	T	Y	■	O	N	C	E	■	V	I	T	O
D	S	L	■	S	A	W	T	H	E	L	I	G	H	T
■	■	L	A	T	T	E	■	■	D	I	S	H	E	S
A	R	T	I	S	T	■	W	A	Y	S	■	■	■	■
L	I	E	S	■	I	D	O	L	■	P	O	L	A	R
E	T	A	L	■	C	U	R	D	S	■	H	E	R	O
C	A	M	E	L	■	F	R	A	U	■	A	V	E	C
■	■	■	■	I	F	F	Y	■	S	T	R	E	A	K
S	E	S	A	M	E	■	■	W	H	E	E	L	■	■
H	A	M	M	E	R	S	T	E	I	N	■	B	A	D
A	S	A	P	■	G	O	R	E	■	A	R	E	N	A
D	E	L	L	■	I	C	E	D	■	N	A	S	T	Y
E	L	L	E	■	E	K	E	S	■	T	E	T	E	S

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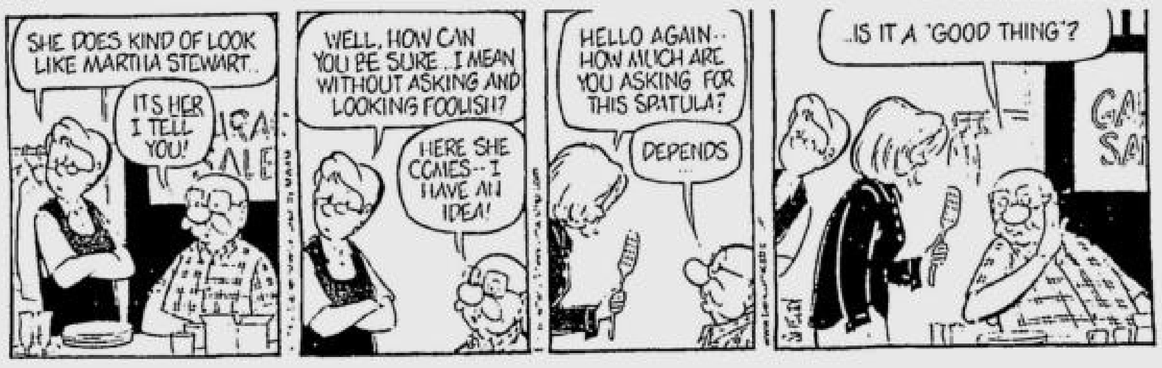
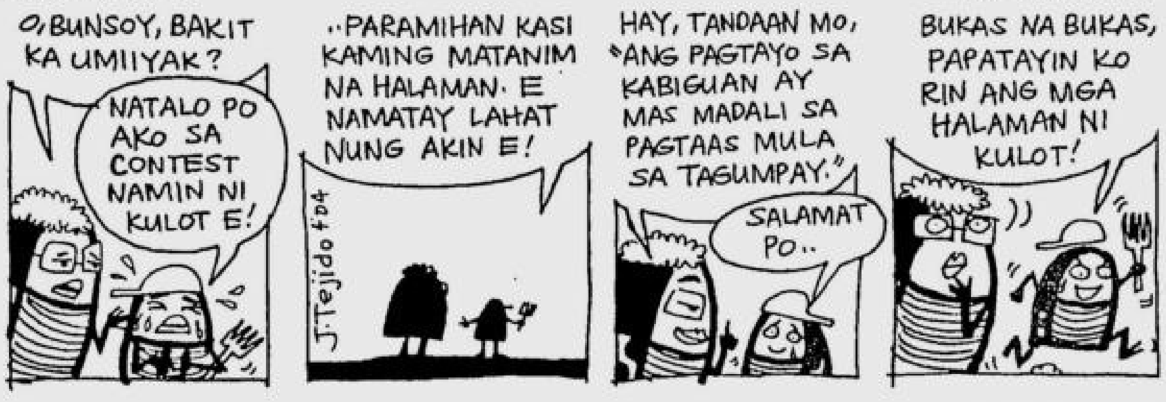
5/6/04

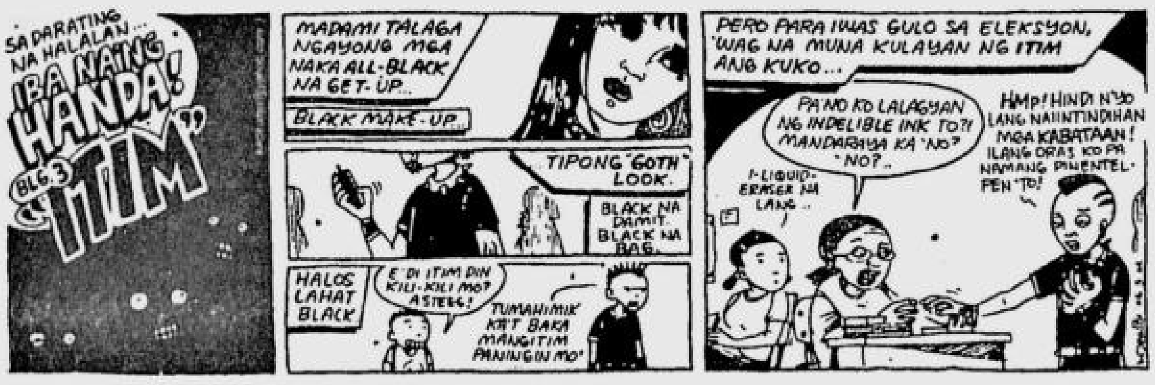
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


SHE DOES KIND OF LOOK LIKE MARTHA STEWART...
IT'S HER I TELL YOU!
WELL, HOW CAN YOU BE SURE... I MEAN WITHOUT ASKING AND LOOKING FOOLISH?
HERE SHE COMES... I HAVE AN IDEA!
HELLO AGAIN... HOW MUCH ARE YOU ASKING FOR THIS SPATULA?
DEPENDS ...
...IS IT A 'GOOD THING'?

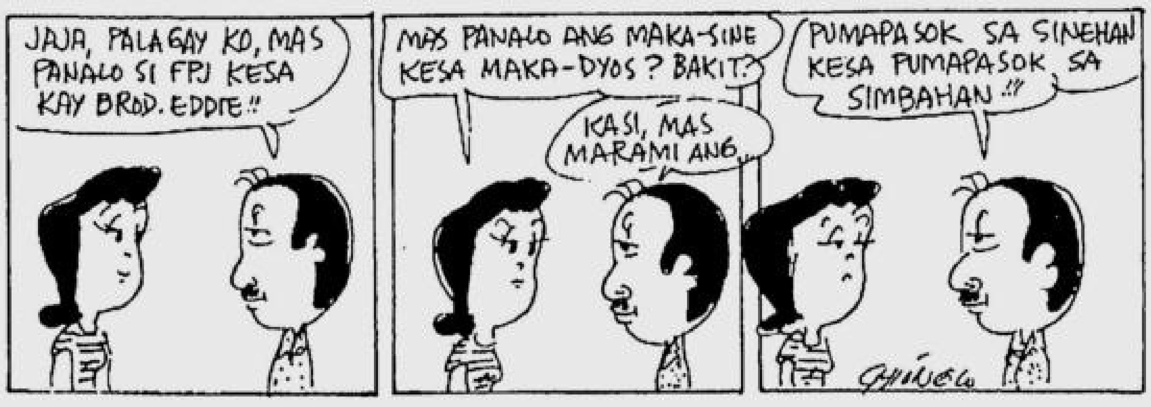
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


O, BUNSOY, BAKIT KA UMIIYAK?
NATALO PO AKO SA CONTEST NAMIN NI KULOT E!
..PARAMIHAN KASI KAMING MATANIM NA HALAMAN. E NAMATAY LAHAT NUNG AKIN E!
J. Tejido 4 04
HAY, TANDAAN MO, "ANG PAGTAYO SA KABIGUAN AY MAS MADALI SA PAGTAAS MULA SA TAGUMPAY."
SALAMAT PO..
BUKAS NA BUKAS, PAPATAYIN KO RIN ANG MGA HALAMAN NI KULOT!

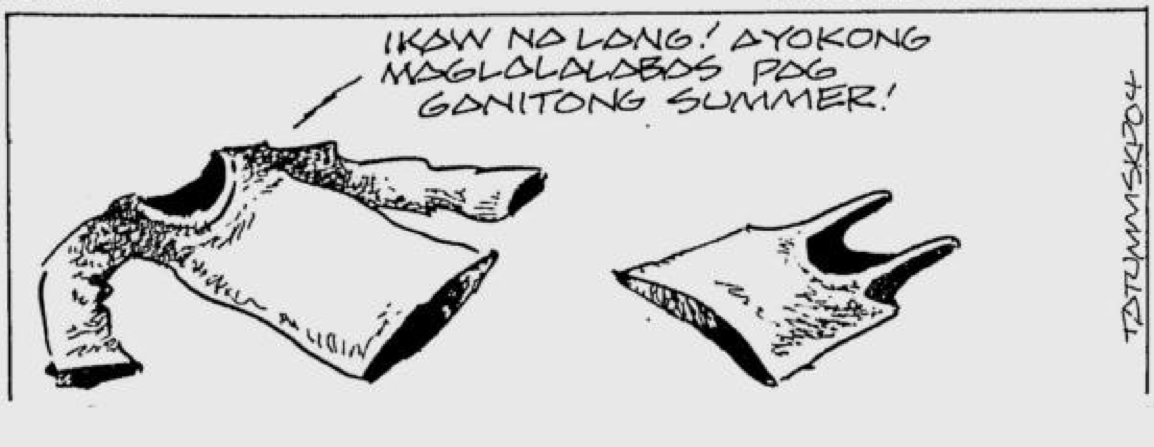
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

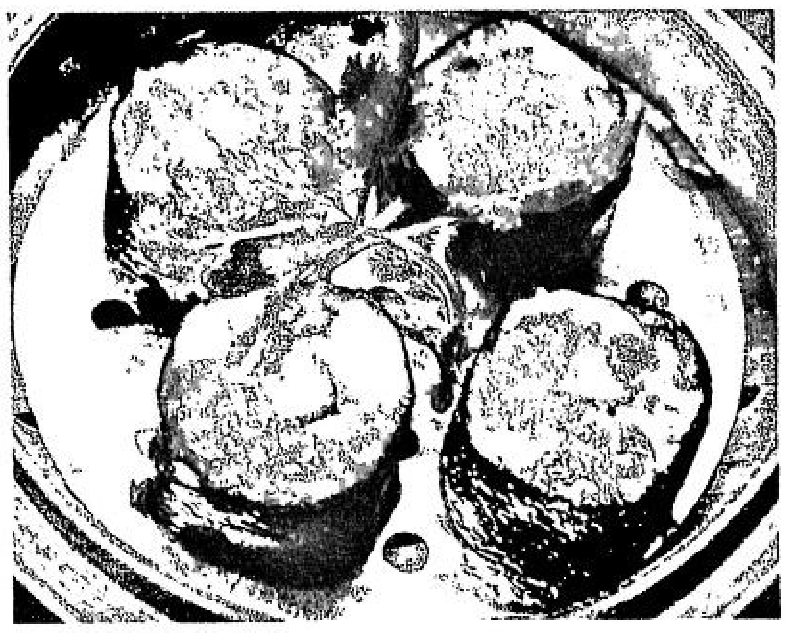

SA DARATING NA HALALAN... IBA NA'NG HANDA!
BLG. 3 "ITIM"
MADAMI TALAGA NGAYONG MGA NAKA ALL-BLACK NA GET-UP...
BLACK MAKE-UP...
TIPONG "GOTH" LOOK.
BLACK NA DAMIT. BLACK NA BAG.
HALOS LAHAT BLACK
E DI ITIM DIN KILI-KILI MO? ASTEEG!
TUMAHIMIK KA'T BAKA MANGITIM PANINGIN MO!
PERO PARA IWAS GULO SA ELEKSYON, 'WAG NA MUNA KULAYAN NG ITIM ANG KUKO...
PA'NO KO LALAGYAN NG INDELIBLE INK TO?! MANDARAYA KA 'NO? 'NO?..
I-LIQUID-ERASER NA LANG..
HMP! HINDI N'YO LANG NAIINTINDIHAN MGA KABATAAN! ILANG ORAS KO PA NAMANG PINENTEL-PEN 'TO!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

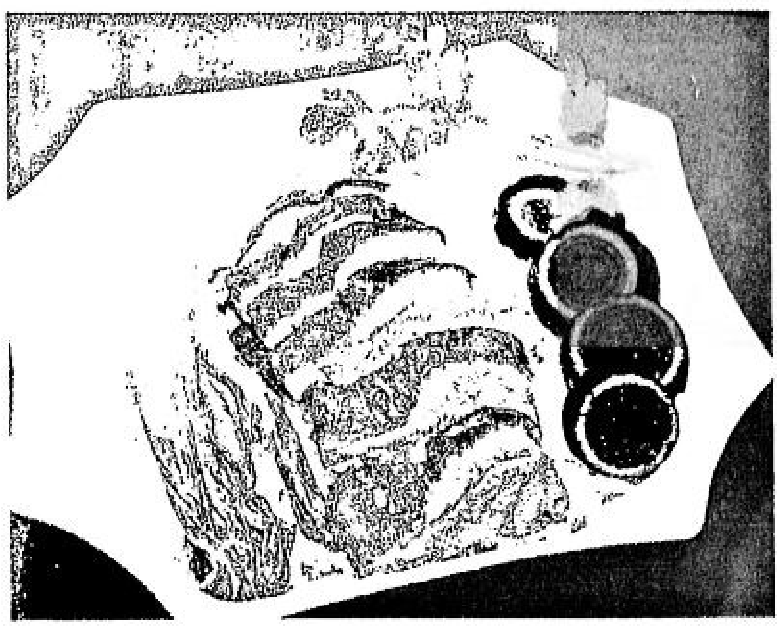

JAJA, PALAGAY KO, MAS PANALO SI FPJ KESA KAY BROD. EDDIE!!
MAS PANALO ANG MAKA-SINE KESA MAKA-DYOS? BAKIT?
KASI, MAS MARAMI ANG
PUMAPASOK SA SINEHAN KESA PUMAPASOK SA SIMBAHAN!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


IKAW NA LANG! AYOKONG MAGLOLALABAS PAG GANITONG SUMMER!


JAPANESE Siomai

CURRY Chicken Baked Rice


ROAST Duck Rice Topping

Hong Kong flavors from this kitchen

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Randy Hormillosa

AT Mr. Choi Kitchen, food lovers can savor a variety of culinary delights prepared a la Hong Kong.

Located at 2/L, east wing of Robinsons Galleria, Mr. Choi Kitchen is named after its chef consultant who has been in the restaurant business for more than three decades now.

"He believes that Hong Kong and Southeast Asian cuisines are suitable to the Filipino palate. That's why he introduced such dishes to Filipinos," says Bernadine Tan-Ong, managing director.

Hong Kong's cuisine is world-famous for its exotic fusion of Eastern and Western flavors. According to Ong, nowhere in the world is cooking more varied than in this city where most Chinese restaurants specialize in one or more of the following: Cantonese, Chiu Chow, Hunan, Szechuan, Peking, Shanghainese or Chinese vegetarian.

Latest hits

Six months before the restaurant opened in January, Mr. Choi carefully studied the latest trends in Hong Kong restaurants.

Hence, Mr. Choi Kitchen's affordable entrées now include some of Hong Kong's recent culinary hits, such as Stewed Rice (Supreme Seafood, Seafood with Mushroom, Fish Fillet with Century Egg, Meat Ball and Fish Ball, Beef with Vegetable, Roast Duck in Fish Stock, etc) and Baked Rice (Soy Chicken in Curry Sauce, Seafood with White Sauce, Curry Chicken, Porkchop with Tomato Sauce, Lapu-Lapu in Cheese Sauce, Gindara with Black Pepper Sauce, etc.).

No one can visit Hong Kong and not sample its dim sum. The same is true with Mr. Choi Kitchen, where bite-size portions of dumplings with lightly seasoned fillings of meat and seafood, fluffy buns with various fillings and glutinous rice—deliciously steamed or fried— are best savored with a pot of tea.

Healthy eating

Su Yao Bo and Li Qittua, who used to work as chefs in Hong Kong, have taken over the restaurant's kitchen since Mr. Choi returned to the former British colony.

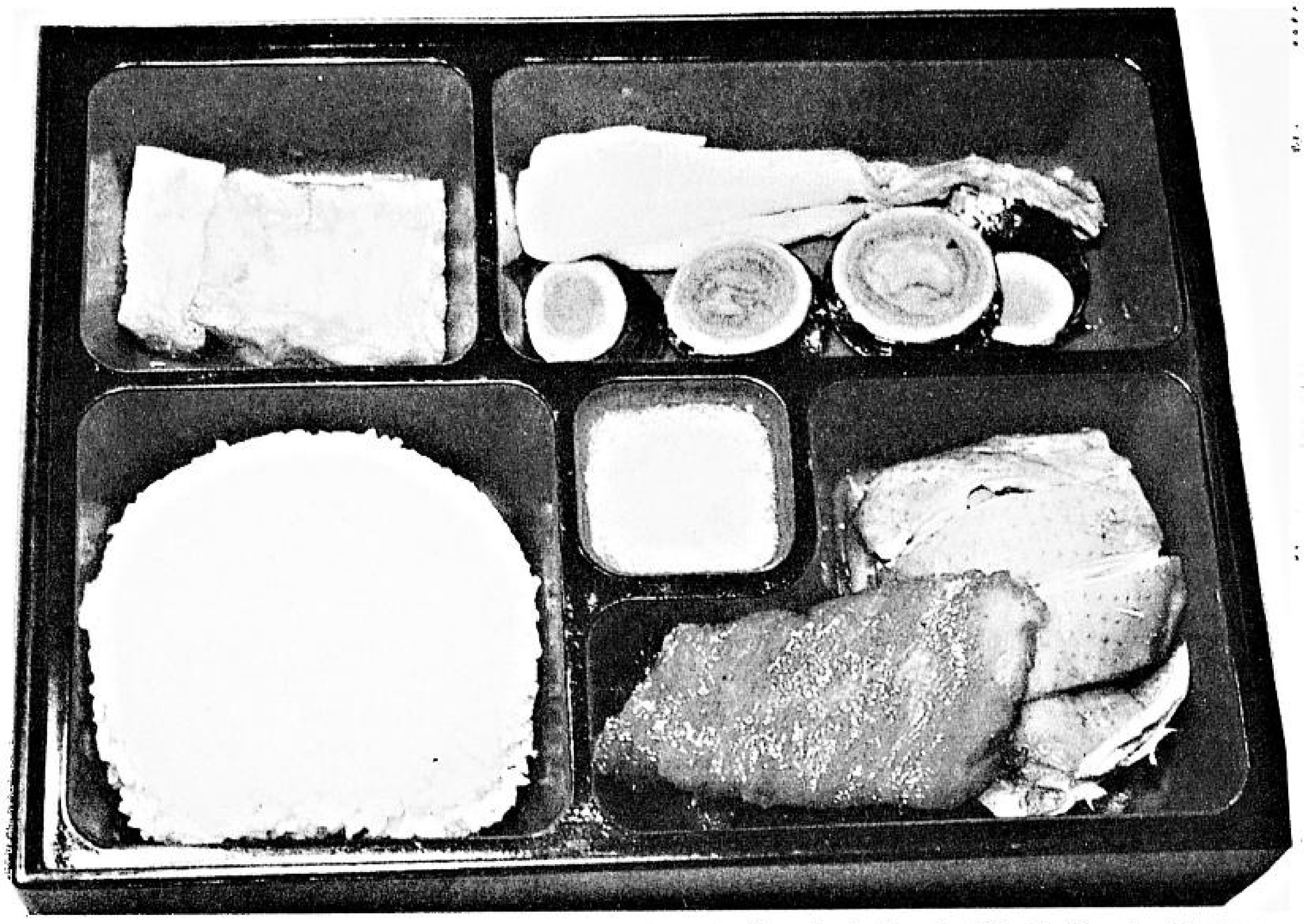
The two chefs use little oil and no MSG in cooking. "Like the Cantonese, we promote healthy eating here at Mr. Choi Kitchen," Ong says.

She adds that the ingredients are carefully combined to achieve the balance—yin (female or cool energy) and yan (male or warm energy)—that is so important to the Chinese. This balance is said to ensure the health and well-being of a person.

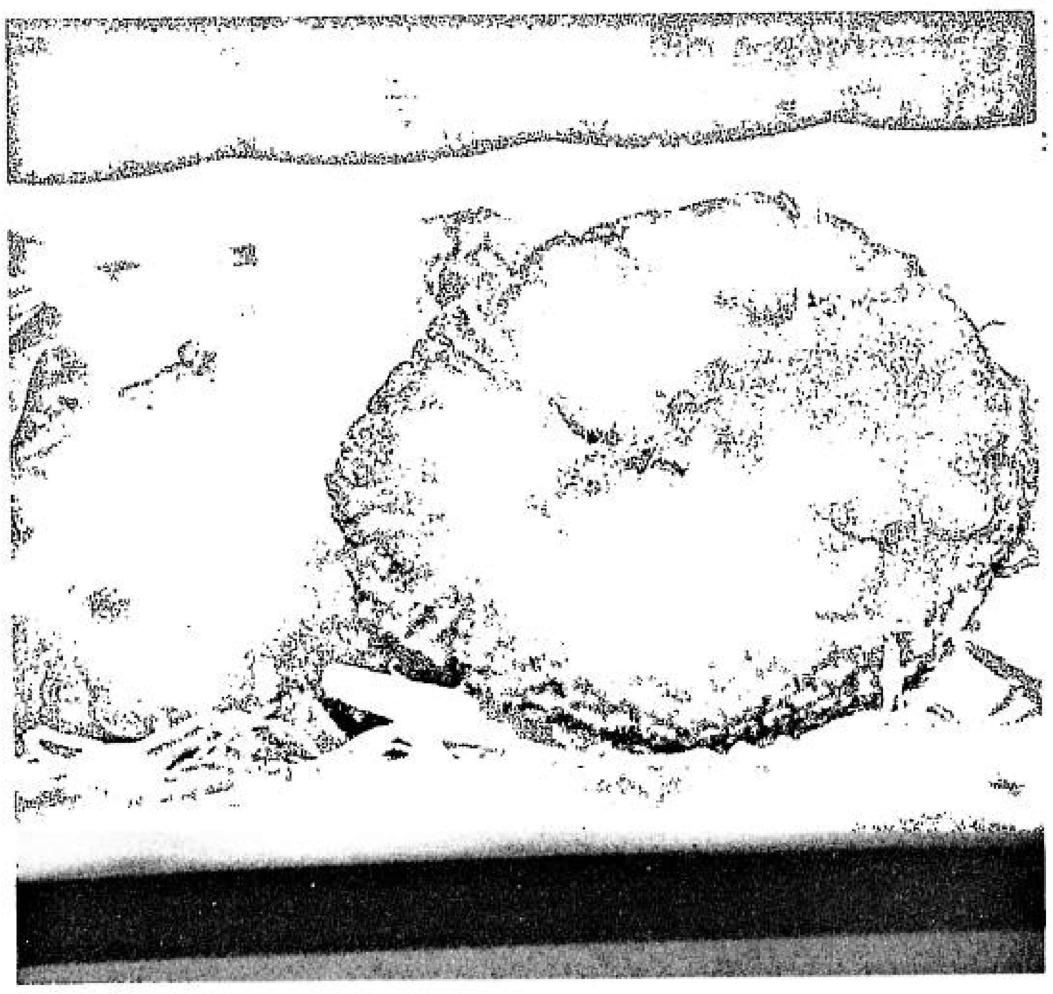
Other bestsellers that will tempt even the most fickle of palates include Special 4 Treasure Rice Topping of Roast Asado, Fish Fillet in Garlic Sauce, Fried Salad Seafood Roll, Century Egg with Lean Meat Congee, Japanese Siomai and Lomaichi.

The 120-seater Mr. Choi Kitchen is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph


SPECIAL 4-Treasure rice topping (Roast Asado, Roast Duck, Soy, Soy Bean Curd, Century Egg)

• **LOMAICHI**


GRILLED Gindara with Special Sauce

A cook's glossary of terms

From page E1

ter or crushed ice

Poach—To cook food in liquid usually with a little vinegar, heat kept just below boiling point

Purée—Pulp of vegetables or fruit sieved, mashed or ground to a smooth thick paste

Reduce—To boil liquid rapidly to reduce in volume thereby thickening and concentrating the flavor

Render—To heat chopped food containing fat in order to extract it

Roast—To cook with a little fat in the oven

Sauté—To cook food gently in a little hot fat, shaking pan to prevent sticking or browning

Scald—To heat liquid to a temperature just below boiling point

Score—To make cuts or slashes with the point of a knife

Sear—To brown raw food in minimum fat in an open pan in order to seal in the juices

Sieve/sift—To pass dried goods through a fine mesh in order to remove lumps

Simmer—To cook liquid or food immersed in liquid kept just below boiling point; similar to poaching but involves longer periods of cooking

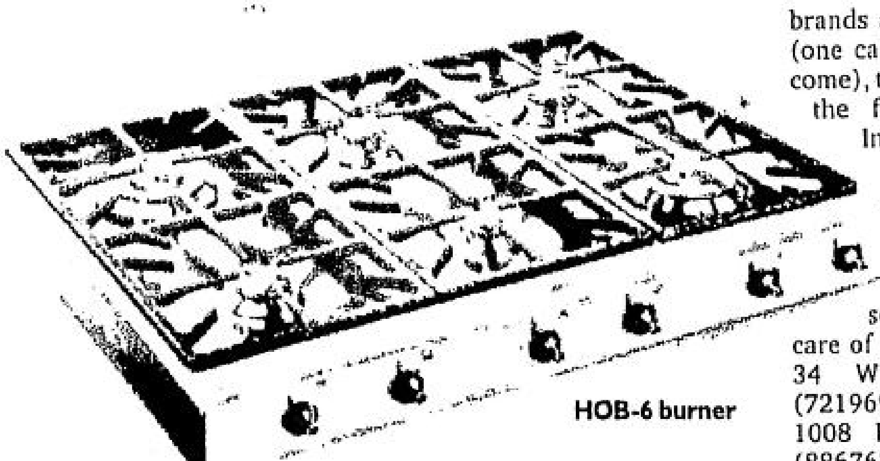
Skim—To remove scum from surface after first boiling

Steam—To cook in steam from boiling liquid

Stew—To cook food slowly in a ridded container with enough liquid to cover, until tender

Toss—To shake or mix food in order to coat it evenly

Zest—Thinly peeled or grated outer skin of citrus fruit


HOB-6 burner

Building a dream

To create a dream kitchen, what stove and refrigerator to buy? Should it be gas or electric oven, electric or gas burners...?

If I were making my dream kitchen, I would prefer Smeg—the prices are very reasonable compared to local brands and service is excellent (one call and their technicians come), the designs splendid and the features... magnificent. Imagine an oven with nine functions in one. By the way, I'd go for electric oven and gas burners.

Look for Jefferson and he'll take good care of you. Showrooms are on 34 Wilson St., Greenhills (7219691 or 7221691) and 1008 B, Pasay Rd., Makati (8867634/3821).

Anniversary

JT's Manukan is celebrating its first anniversary. I remember falling in love with the ribs and the *inasal*, too.

To you Joel Torre, kudos! May you continue to bring comfort to our hungry stomachs and your chickens continue to lay golden eggs. All the best!

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888

SEACHAMP
Hearty Meals
Paella
Marinara

Instant seafood meal

PUT a little fun and convenience into your meals with the Seachamp Hearty Meals Paella Marinara.

Each pack of the quick and easy to prepare meal contains seasoned rice topped with shrimp, clam, squid, crab and fish meat, fish *longganisa* and vegetables.

Just take the new Seachamp Hearty Meals Paella Marinara out of the pack, heat in the oven or microwave for an instant all-natural meal in less than five minutes.

Other quick and healthy Seachamp hearty meals are Seafood Medley, Fish in Sweet and Sour Sauce, Calamares en su Tinta, Shrimps in Teriyaki Sauce. Seachamp Hearty Meals are available at leading supermarkets. Call 8541035 to 36.

Cable subscribers are fit to be tied

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

OWNERS of some cable television companies may not be aware that their employees are driving away paying customers. But before we go to the complaint of a subscriber against customer care frontliners that drove her to transfer to a competitor, there's something else cable TV owners should be aware of. There are "technicians" (not necessarily their own employees) who go around installing illegal cable TV connections and charging a one-time subscription fee.

It's for the cable TV companies to find out if these technical people tap the line of legitimate subscribers to hook up unauthorized extensions. We can only conclude from the complaints we receive that weak signals and frequent program interruptions suffered by subscribers are caused by the clandestine extensions. By the way, these "technicians" charge P500 per installation.

Here's the complaint of a lady subscriber with e-mail address linda@showcase.ph: She called up her cable TV company's customer care twice last Saturday to complain about the lost signal on her set. On her last call, the operator told the problem seemed to be "isolated" to her home.

However, she was informed that a technician would only be available on Tuesday, at the earliest, to look into the problem. She was advised by the woman customer care person that, in the meantime, she could unhook the television set from the cable connection to view local channels.

The following day, still without cable signal, the subscriber asked how long it would take to disconnect the service, and was told lackadaisically by the customer care person, a man this time, that it could be done the very next day.

Two men, in fact, came the next day. They did not talk to her but told her next door neighbor (whose cable service was also "mysteriously" interrupted) that she—the complaining customer—was having cable installed. The men offered the neighbor to have cable installed in their own home "simultaneously" for only P500.

After the men left, the neighbor asked the unhappy customer if she was indeed having cable installed. The neighbor was surprised to learn that, contrary to what the men said, she was actually having the service terminated.

The angry subscriber commented, "All this time, I didn't mind paying the P200 visitation fee they charged me every time I was 'honored' with a visit from their technician. I also didn't complain when they added the Animé channel without asking and charged me extra, or when they hiked their monthly charges.

"But I resent it when the technicians take their time attending to your problem. The customer service people were not even interested to hear my report about possible illegal tapping into my line that might have caused the problem. Now tell me, what good reasons do I have for wanting to stick with a company like that?"

(E-mail linda@showcase.ph for more information on the lousy service of the cable TV company.)

Another cable TV problem

The following complaint sent to us by a subscriber of yet another cable TV company sounds almost like that of subscriber with e-mail address linda@showcase.ph.

Subscriber G Sy at gdiusy@yahoo.com wrote: "Our cable TV service is finally back (after) almost one week of exasperating follow-up with the service center. Allow me to share with your readers our experience.

"We did not call customer care on Tuesday when we found out we had no cable TV reception because we assumed that the lines were being repaired by a service crew working a few blocks from us. But when there was still no reception the next day, we called the service center.

"We were told then that since it was only us who made a complaint, it meant that this was an isolated case, so we had to wait at least two days for them to be able to look into our problem. By Saturday, no crew had come. We kept calling service center and all we got was the same cold reply, '*kung hindi po mamaya, sigurado bukas.*' Fed up by it all, we said we would request for a refund if they didn't fix the problem by Monday. The service center operator replied '*sige lang ho.*' If we may ask, is this the way a service-oriented company should reply?"

Praises

Anna Ruth Conde wrote: "I appreciate the attention of the Department of Trade and Industry to my complaint and I thank SkyCable for reconnecting our cable TV." (Conde complained that the company failed to send the bill and disconnected the cable TV service without prior notice.)

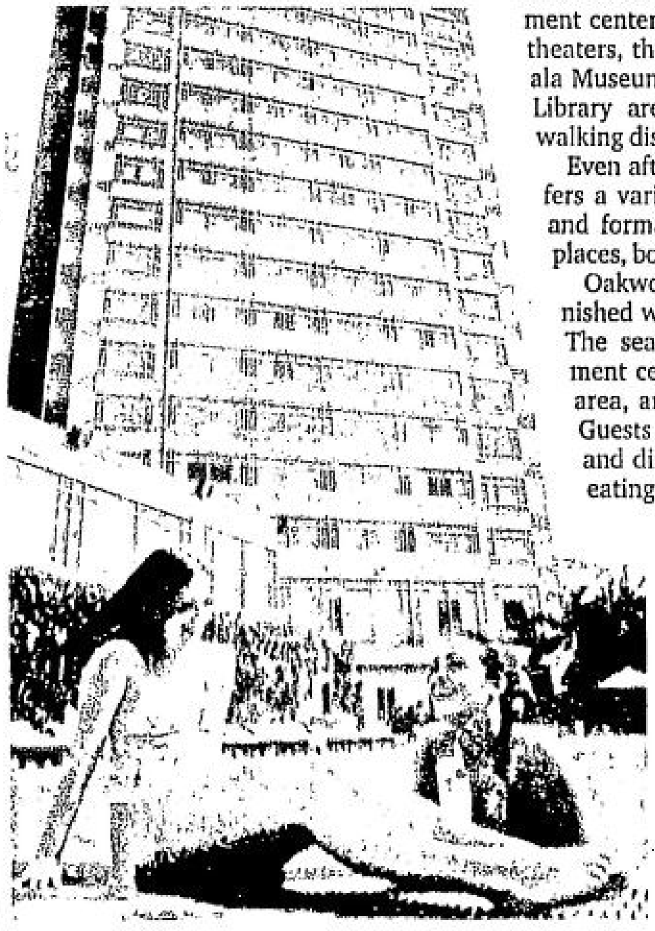
Meanwhile, we thank Ryan Endiase, a member of the sales support staff of the marketing department of Global Destiny Cable TV, for his prompt response to our request for information on the schedule of programs. By the way, Endiase informs customers that Destiny service center has this new hotline, 8120101 local 9060/9061, in addition to 841-9333.

E-mail author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

Weekend getaway in the city

HAVE an unforgettable weekend at the Oakwood Premier Ayala Center.

One of Makati's elegant establishments at the heart of the Makati Business District, Oakwood is offering a value-added package for locals and their families up to the end of May. The package includes accommodation, breakfast and use of the property's recreational facilities.



OAKWOOD offers value-added weekend packages for locals and their families up to the end of May.

Oakwood is next door to hundreds of retail outlets, restaurants, and entertainment centers. Greenbelt Park, Greenbelt theaters, the diorama exhibit of the Ayala Museum, and the Filipinas Heritage Library are among the places within walking distance from Oakwood.

Even after dark, the Ayala Center offers a variety of attractions—al fresco and formal dining, bars and fastfood places, bookstores and record bars.

Oakwood units have been fully furnished with all the comforts of home. The seating area has an entertainment center, full kitchen and dining area, and even a washer and dryer. Guests can prepare their own meals and dine in any of the hundreds of eating places at the Ayala Center.

Open to overnight and long-term guests, Oakwood offers free use of its swimming pool, gym, tennis courts, table tennis facilities and more.

Oakwood's hotel services include daily maid service, 24-hour front desk and concierge. It also has the Oakroom Restaurant and Bar, state-of-the-art business center, serviced offices and function rooms that allow business conferencing.

Call 7298888.

Buy 3 wines, get 1 cake free

TAKE advantage of Carlo Rossi's ongoing promo, in cooperation with Goldilocks Bakeshop, to liven up the celebration of Mother's Day.

Visit any supermarket and get the Carlo Rossi All-Occasion Packs, consisting of three 750 ml bottles of California Red with a Goldilocks gift certificate. Simply present the gift certificate, along with proof of purchase at Goldilocks' participating branches and get one Brazo de Mercedes or Choco Cake Roll free.

A medium-bodied wine, Carlo Rossi California Red has a deep ruby color, rich aroma and flavors. It is fruity and slightly sweet with hints of blackberry and plum to complement and add zest to numerous dishes.

Carlo Rossi is a product of E&J Gallo, one of the foremost wineries in the US.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0875 Series of 2004

Call us at 878-5111 for more information. You can also visit us at www.hsbc.com.ph or e-mail us at hsbc@hsbc.com.ph.

For more details, please refer to the promotional leaflet or visit our website.

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